

ALF

Supporters Group Newsletter



Autumn 1994 £1.50

COMMENT

Once again Autumn comes around and we find ourselves with the last newsletter before Christmas, so those inclined to celebrate it, have a Merry one. The SG Christmas cards are selling well and we have already sold 50% of the print run, so if you desperately want your friends and relatives to get a ALF inclined festive message, send in your order soon.

For those of a more technological bent, the Supporters Group is now accessible via the Internet. The address is 100302.1616@compuserve.com, so if you're cybersurfing and want to drop us a message, or get the up-to-date info on prisoners as we hear it, let us know.

We have recently been receiving a number of letters from people who sent in for merchandise. They invariably say that they posted the order two weeks ago. Although we do not put it on our merchandise form it is normal to allow 28 days for delivery of mail order goods. Please take into account that the order has to go to the BCM address, be collected from there, passed on to the persons dealing with the merchandise, packed and posted off. The postal time alone is one week minimum and to save on costs the mail is only collected from the BCM address once a week, so it can take nearly two weeks for your order to reach the correct person. The Supporters Group pays no staff, ALL work is voluntary which means those designing, ordering and packing the merchandise (not to mention the production of the newsletter and general day-to-day administration) do so in their spare time. The people at present doing this work have either full time jobs or University courses, not to mention other animal rights commitments. The SG comes as very high priority but some things have to be put first. For instance all SG work slows down when there is an urgent mailout to do or the deadline for the newsletter passes. Basically we do our very best to keep the SG working within the time restraints and the orders do sometimes stray over the 28 day limit (but not often), please have patience with us and if you need an order quickly for any reason let us know and we will do our very best to get it to you.

That's enough from us for the moment, we hope you enjoy the newsletter, or that it at least works you up enough to reply to some of the articles enclosed. All contributions gratefully accepted. Our deadline is the 1st January but please take into account the Christmas post.

Take care and keep struggling.

SG

Front Page Photo: Some of the 470 Guineu pigs liberated from A.Tuck and Sons, Essex on 11th September.

S.G. under attack...

Once again the Supporters Group has come under attack, this time of an economic nature. In the distant past the Supporters Group banked with the Co-operative bank deeming it the most ethical way to invest the funds collected. As many of you will be aware in mid-1992 along with the arrest of Vivien Smith (the editor) the account was frozen by the police and shortly afterwards closed by the bank itself. Those people who got the SG back in operation opened an account with the Ecology Building Society, with a special arrangement to allow standing orders to be paid in via the Yorkshire bank. All went well until late 1993 when we started to receive letters questioning the printing of some articles in the magazines, with the building society saying they had had complaints that we used their services. In August this year we were told that the account was to be closed and we were given a month to move our funds, this we did at great expense as we had to contact all our standing order members, which is about 50% of the membership. We already had a 'working' account for the payment of bills etc with the Nationwide Building Society, an account which had been open since 1992. We transferred all our funds to that account and also the standing order payments. Just over a month ago while paying in cheques our treasurer was informed that there was a problem with the account balance and to rectify it the book would need to be sent to the head office.

After a wait of a week with no communication, inquiries were made about the book and how we could take out funds to pay bills, buy the prisoners postal order etc. At first we were told that this was impossible without the book, but on insisting we were allowed to withdraw funds. Then, one month after having the book taken, we received a letter from the Nationwide saying that the account was to be closed in one months time and asking us to make other arrangements. No reasons were given and it was made clear that none would be forthcoming.

The problems encountered with the Ecology Building Society started after the Sunday Times mentioned in an article on the ALF that our banking was done with the Ecology B.S., and the more recent problems only started, after holding the account for two years without a hitch, when the building societies name was printed on the back of the standard leaflet we produce. Whether this is a ploy by the police, agents of the animal abuse industry, or just someone who wants to cause us maximum problems, we are not sure.

It does strike us as strange that this has happened at a time when the ALF Press Office is also under attack from a different area. The Supporters group has always risen out of the ashes of any arrests and imprisonments, so perhaps this is seen as a better way of destroying us? We can only guess.

Needless to say we have not rolled over and given up, alternative, and (some would say) very devious, methods of alternative financial arrangements have been made. We will still be taking membership by standing order but will just not be printing who we are banking with. Those of you who are paying by standing order will find yet another form to fill in and we apologize again for the inconvenience this causes. But please do continue to pay by this method, paying by cheque is fine, but having a regular monthly income we can be sure of makes us more stable and enables us to plan our finances more accurately. Please do not let the person(s) causing us this trouble have the pleasure of a victory, however small.

...again!!

Rod Coronado

Rod Coronado who has been on the run from the FBI and other various police agencies in the USA has been arrested after living free for 14 months.

He has been in hiding since 1992 when FBI harassment, an armed search of his house, and threats from members of the fur industry led him to fear for his life. While on the run Rod was the subject of a five-count indictment from a federal grand jury in Grand Rapids. He also offered to give himself up if the bears held for vivisection at Washington State University were released and promises were made never to do such experiments again.

Rod was arrested at 12.30 (afternoon) on Wednesday, September 28th by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), FBI, and tribal police at the Paquayaqui reservation 10 miles south of Tucson, Arizona, USA. Apparently there was a brief scuffle when Rod tried to escape after being handcuffed.

He is currently being held in a federal correctional centre in Tucson, possibly awaiting extradition to Michigan.

PETA's national chairwoman, Ingrid Newkirk, was asked by journalists about Rods arrest and she replied "I am sorry they picked him up." Although she was not sure if PETA would aid Coronados defense.

Rod was in court on the 8th October and the next hearing will be on the October 21st. Although the prosecution is eager to have it sooner to get Rod extradited quickly. He is receiving support from many different groups of people there: indigenous people, animal rights activists, environmentalists and the courtroom was packed at the hearing. Friends and lawyers even flew in from California.

Rod has made it clear to the team of lawyers allowed to talk to him that this case is POLITICAL, not criminal. He is in jail right now for POLITICAL reasons only. Rod is appealing to try to overturn the decision denying him bail.

What follows is a letter sent out at the hearing from Rod.

It is with intense pride and joy that I know you are out there. I love each and everyone of you, in a special and different way.

You give me such strength. You make me invincible! Each night and day that I've been away from you, I've prayed and given thanks for all of you. I know we will win. With this much love and togetherness nothing is impossible! Look at yourselves! Yes, it is ironic, but this event is bringing us together as never before across all lines of division. They try to label us so that we can be separated and divided. Don't let it happen! We are all children of earth, wishing, praying, and FIGHTING for the very same things! Thank you for proving to me that there is hope. I haven't had the chance to be disillusioned or desperate with all your love and prayers directed my way. In return all I can say is this: I promise each one of you that I will never surrender my soul to the spirit-hunters, never let them hear me have a regret. I will honor your love and support with my continued strength in the face of battle. This is no longer about me, it is about us, and everything we love, the mountains, the wild ones, each other. Our time is here. Time to be strong. Time to put petty differences aside, time to hold each other's hands. TOGETHER. It's all coming together, we are all citizens of struggle, but now our cry is the same. Let us create the wave that never breaks until all are free. If you see me crying again, it's only because I can't believe how lucky I am. To have all of you as my friends.

We're breaking free! And that's when the magic begins. The voice of those who have fought this fight before is among us. Their bodies may be gone but their spirit lives in each one of you. I can feel it. The heart beat is getting louder. I can hear it. I used to be a whisper, but it's becoming a roar! Your light is bright and I am honored to be a part of it. Our connection is strong, we've tapped into something powerful. In closing, I say Choeke uttu tesia! Thank you, thank you for showing each other how beautiful we can be.

In Her Service,

Rod Coronado

Darren Thurston

.....early one morning I lie very still, I'm under a pine tree my body pressed into the earth. I'd been there for six hours already, watching the Ellerslie Research Station a University of Alberta animal laboratory. When all of a sudden a field mouse ran over my hand and stopped to stare at me, this strange one lying under a tree with binoculars and a radio to his ear. It talked but a short moment and went back on it's way, needless to say I didn't understand what it said but it moved me. It made me think again of my commitment to the earth and just why I'd been lying under a pine tree eight hours a night for seven days straight. Later that week I helped liberate 29 cats and damage equipment in that laboratory.

Unfortunately not all stories end up happy, nineteen days later I was arrested by the RCMP. Fortunately 29 cats are still out there, living their lives in loving and caring homes. I spent 15 months locked up awaiting trial and finally in September '93 I was given a suspended sentence, two years probation and ordered to pay \$73,725 restitution. The state was not impressed, they wanted blood oops I mean three more years prison time and immediately appealed the judges sentence. On May 12th '94 after a very short eight months of freedom the Alberta Court of Appeals issued a written decision sentencing me to an additional two years less a day. On Friday the 13th after saying many tearful goodbyes, I took the long walk and turned myself in.

I'm well into my government vacation now and I've just recently been transferred to 'the fort' which is definitely nicer than the last two government resorts. Not to say it's all been fun, I'm not happy to be back inside after only eight months out, but I've gotten used to my temporary home. I think of it as a strengthening process, one where we can harden ourselves in our struggle. For the battle has begun and it is not going to be easy. More people will go underground, and more people will go to prison. In England activists are serving four, six, ten year sentences, yet actions there continue unabated. Sisters and Brothers (mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts and even second cousins) earth and animal warriors, we must join hands with others fighting for their own liberation. You must realize that we all have tremendous power, it takes but one person to cost them millions. When you see the pictures of a masked liberator, stop asking who's behind the mask and look in the mirror!

Many thanks to all those that have written me during my time inside, it sure helps me survive. And to the few people that have travelled thousands of miles and put hundreds of hours into my support, a huge thank you. To those on the front line, stay strong, stay free and keep fighting the good fight.

Clenched Fist Salutations.

Darren Thurston.

Sept 5 New Moon.

ALL GRAND JURY PRISONERS RELEASED

Deb Stout was released after serving just over 5 months on July 18th, shortly afterwards Kim Trimiew was also released after 6 months in jail both still refusing to testify to the Grand Jury. So far none of the persons imprisoned for refusing to talk to the grand juries about ALF actions and activists have given in to pressure so hopefully we will see no more of these pointless imprisonments.

DAVID BARBARASH 50% Anti-Vivisection

David Barbarash, who has been in jail since May of this year for charges stemming from the liberation of 29 cats from the University of Alberta in 1992, was released from Edmonton remand centre. Originally charged with several offenses, David accepted a plea-bargain and pled guilty to a lesser charge of "accessory after the fact", with the prosecution asking for 6-9 months in jail including time served.

On September 8th, the judge handed down a sentence of 18 months probation and 200 hours community service and so David was released.

The prosecution can appeal this sentence as they did in Darren Thurston's case but so far we have no news on that. David has sent his thanks to those who supported him during his incarceration and promises to stay wild!

A recent study by Pifer et al. ("Public attitudes toward animal research: Some international comparisons," *Society and Animals*, 2, 2, 1994) compared attitudes in 15 countries toward the acceptability of animal research. The item which the participants (over 10,000) responded to was:

Scientists should be allowed to do research that causes pain and injury to animals like dogs and chimpanzees if it produces new information about human health problems.

Some of the results of the survey were that the country with the strongest attitude against animal research is France (68%). Most European countries sampled also have more than 50% against the acceptability of animal research. However, the American sample scored near the lowest (42%) (that is, for the acceptability of animal research) of the 15, along with Japan (42%), Portugal (35%), and Greece (36%). But still the level of opposition to experiments is never far below 50%.

OUT!

A Farcical Trial

In November, 1992, Chicago activists Lise Olsen was arrested at her home. Earlier that year, Lise had hung 21 home-made lanterns fueled with a very small amount of petrol near a railroad trestle to illuminate a 30-foot red, white and blue banner over a railway overpass, on which pro-fur advertising was painted. Lise had designed these lanterns to burn like small torches, for about five minutes, and then go out; only one of these lanterns actually lit, and it did indeed burn for five minutes with a very small flame.

Because the lanterns had failed to light, Lise decided it was useless to take pictures for the media, and removed her banner. Lise has an immune deficiency called Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and felt physically unable to remove the 21 lanterns, so she left them there. Four months later, she was arrested for attempted arson, and released on a \$20,000 bond.

According to Lise, "although I denied it categorically, the detective who arrested me, Robert Schatzel, told the media and the Grand Jury that I had confessed to it. The terrible media I received convicted me before my trial. When the detective was challenged by my attorney at my trial to produce the supposed confession, of course he couldn't. He just said he had made an 'error' about it."

Lise describes her July 1994 trial as a "farce" and lists countless procedural "irregularities", including manipulation of evidence and obvious judicial bias. Despite a military explosives consultant's testimony that the lanterns were candles, not incendiaries, Lise was convicted of possession of incendiary devices, unlawful use of weapon, i.e. possession of more than 3 teaspoonfuls of gasoline.

After her conviction Lise spent over a month in appalling conditions at the Cook County Jail, awaiting sentencing. During this time she undertook a hunger strike in protest of her incarceration as a political prisoner. On August 31, Lise was sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Despite everything, Lise remains strong. It is clear that this attempt to use Lise as an example to terrorize other activists will not be successful, for Lise continues to resist even while behind bars and her courage serves as inspiration for the rest of us.

Lise was recently moved to a prison in Dwight, Illinois. At time of printing her address was:

Lise Olsen (Intake)
PO Box 50001
Dwight
IL 60420
USA

This may be temporary so to be safer letters can be sent to the North American ALF SG who will pass them on.

The Imprisonment of Lise Olsen

News from the Press Office

RIDING SHOTGUN FOR THE MOVEMENT?

During August the press office was raided by the police on two occasions; this seems to be a change of tactics from the period of relative calm that had existed in recent months.

The first raid was on Friday 5th August, a few days after the latest battery egg contamination hoax by the Poultry Liberation Organization which claimed to have placed eggs in Tesco stores throughout the South. It also just happened to be the day before NAHC's anti-bloodsport march and rally in London.

Two detectives arrived on my doorstep unannounced during the afternoon to be met with my standard reply along the lines of "No, I won't answer your questions; please contact my solicitor. His name and number is....Thank you". As usual, they left. Later that evening they returned with some Cambridgeshire police and a newly-sworn-out warrant to search for correspondence. Hell hath no fury like a police officer scorned! Clearly, the search was only carried out through vindictiveness. Even the answering and fax machines were taken; they also want to question me and have said they will arrest me to do so if I don't agree voluntarily. Whichever way it goes I still have the right to silence, no thanks to Michael Howard.

Two weeks later, on 19th August, I was in Hove on the South coast to visit a few people in the area. As I went to leave my first visit my car was stopped

in TV-drama style by the Special Operations Unit (SOU) from new Scotland Yard who I guess were on a day trip to the seaside. Almost immediately several Sussex police patrol cars appeared from around the corner where it is suggested they had been having a cup of tea.

I can't go into details at this time except to say that Dave Hammond, who I had just left, and myself have been charged with offenses relating to a sawn-off double-barreled shotgun and 22 rounds of ammunition. I have been further charged with possessing additional ammunition of a different type. Needless to say, both Dave and I are strenuously denying the charges.

We were both held incommunicado until our respective houses were "made secure" (i.e. police arrived to search them). At my little terraced cottage in the sleepy village I call home no less than 1 unmarked SOU car, 4 patrol cars and 2 police personnel carriers turned up! Turning the house over until midnight on that fateful Friday they stationed a WPC there overnight and came back in force at 9.00am on Saturday to continue the search. I just hope the Hampshire police haven't got anything they want or it could make things difficult.

In the meantime, Dave and I are out on bail, our current conditions being no communication whatsoever with each other, to reside at our home addresses and to report every day at our respective police stations. My additional restriction is that I must not travel further than twenty miles from the centre of Cambridge.

May I take this opportunity to thank the High Court in London for relaxing my bail condition on appeal. I am now allowed to travel more than 20 miles if it is to attend court or to visit my solicitor in London by prior written appointment. On those days I don't have to report to the police station! As you can imagine, that has made life easier to bear!

A BLATANT APPEAL FOR MONEY - 1

This case is likely to last some time, with the trial not taking place until sometime next year. Our next court appearance is scheduled for 14th November at Brighton and Hove Magistrates Court.

A defense fund has been set up to which donations are invited. Please make cheques/PO's payable to "**Hove Two Defense Fund**" and send them **c/o BM4400, London, WC1N 3XX**. For those with an interest in things nautical I apologize for the unintentional pun in the defense fund title.

A BLATANT APPEAL FOR MONEY - 2

The first time we had to report back to court in answer to bail a number of requests were made by the defense, one of which was to relax or remove my travel restrictions. This was opposed by the prosecution on the grounds that I travel up and down the country appearing on television and speaking at meetings and rallies which could be inciting. As I have never been charged with incitement and appearing on TV seems to have nothing to do with the charges against me I can only assume



Photo: Some of the 50 hens liberated from Myrtle farm, Avon on the 22nd of August.

that this is a thinly-disguised attempt to close down the press office. However, I can happily deal with the radio, magazines and newspapers by telephone. As for TV, I can travel into Cambridge and link up with any BBC studio in the country from the satellite television studio at BBC Radio Cambridgeshire; for ITV companies throughout the UK the same can be achieved from Anglia TV's Cambridge studios. So, all is not lost.

The real problem comes from not being able to attend meetings, demos, etc, where most of the fund-raising takes place through donations and sale of merchandise. I feel sure that this is another reason for the travel restrictions which have been imposed on me and that the establishment know that their swingeing and unjust actions will financially impede the work of the press office.

So, please don't let them get away with it! I can continue the work of the ALF Press Office but only if the money is there to pay the bills. If you want to see it continue then any fundraising you can do or donations you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Maybe your local group has a bit of spare cash and would like to help...don't forget that the press office is a lawful undertaking and I am a member of the NUJ running it as almost any other news agency would be run. Thanks to those who have already begun to rally round by doing anything from car boot sales to coffee mornings.

ALL FIRED UP AND READY TO PUT THE BOOT(S) IN

Following the announcement by the Animal Rights Militia (ARM) that the fires in Cambridge on 6th July were the beginning of a campaign against High Street animal abuse in towns and cities across Britain things have been hotting up, in a manner of speaking...

The other main University City was chosen by the ARM for their next actions on 10th August. Oxford saw the first device detonate at Brown's saddlery and leather shop with a second incendiary activating at the Edinburgh Woollen Mill. Further devices were found and made safe at Nurse's fur shop, Madison's leather shop and another leather outlet, Westworld. No reports of anything at Boots but this may have been a deliberate piece of censorship as they have been featured in all of the other attacks.

The towns of Newport and Ryde on the Isle of Wight were the next targets for ARM devices on 24th August. The first activated in Boots' Newport branch just a few hours after an incendiary had been discovered and made safe at Scotties fishing shop in the same town. Meanwhile, at Ryde devices went off in the Suede and Leather Shop, Cancer Research Fund shop and the Sports and Model Shop. Another device in Halfords (owned by the Boots group) was detonated by a controlled explosion in Newport. Extra firefighting services had to be ferried across from the mainland to help fight the blazes; this has caused demands from the Isle's council for the Home Office to increase funding!

The subsequent targets for ARM's attention were York and Harrogate on 16th September. Boots in Harrogate and their newly-refurbished branch in York were both hit together with Boots-owned DIY store Fads in York. Also damaged were Linsley Brother bloodsports shop and the Imperial Cancer Research shop, both in Harrogate.

The Cambridge, Oxford, Isle of Wight and North Yorkshire incidents have each averaged some £2-million damage according to press reports and nowhere seems safe as none of the towns selected immediately spring to mind as

obvious targets. Why the Isle of Wight? Why York and Harrogate rather than the nearby and much larger Leeds? Is it meant as a message from the ARM that absolutely any town or city of whatever size may be attacked in this campaign? It certainly seems that way.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: UPDATE 3

Despite a number a number of suggestions to the contrary during the early days of the Justice Department it really does look as if they are here to stay and fully prepared to go for "animal liberation by whatever means necessary". At the close of the last update devices had been sent to targets involved in the "live exports trade"; the question must be asked...Why have the major ferry companies begun to step back from this vile trade after so much lobbying over so many years seemed to have no effect? Can it possibly be that the JD's style of direct action actually works for the animals?

Having had the Justice Department press file taken by the Hampshire police during a search relating to the Poultry Liberation Organization (it just goes to show that they're either stupid or plain awkward; my opinion favours the latter!) I can't refer to all the details but...

On 15th July fifteen of the non-infamous mousetrap devices were mailed out to targets in the South of England. Eight of the recipients had been victims of the JD previously. Nine went to vivisection targets, three bloodsports, two puppy breeders (Garetmar Kennels, of course!) and one slaughterhouse. One was sent to the owner of Wickham research Laboratories: this person "also got a little bit extra"...whatever it was.

Garetmar kennels (formerly the loathsome Cottagepatch) was hit again on 28th July when a powerful incendiary destroyed a speedboat kept there. The boat had been the subject of several damage attacks from the ALF...let's hear

I would gladly agree with all the world to lay aside the use of arms, and settle matters by negotiation; but unless the whole world wills, the matter ends, and I take up my musket and thank heaven he has put it in my power.

Tom Paine

from you if you think it's wrong for the JD to take work away from the ALF! On the same day four hoax devices were delivered; three to hunt targets and one to the owner of APT which breeds dogs for vivisection. One of the hunt devices was made safe by yet another bomb disposal squad using yet another controlled explosion.

Moving up country to Northamptonshire on 6th August the livestock haulage company Padbury's of Great Hilling was hit with twelve powerful incendiaries. The press office understands that originally both buildings and vehicles were to be hit but additional lorries were found parked at the premises so the attack concentrated on those as being immediately useable for animal abuse. Two lorry tractor units, three trailers and two rigid vehicles were admitted to have been severely damaged with one of the £30,000 vehicles completely burnt out.

An incident which appears to have been the work of the Justice Department was the delivery of a letter bomb on 22nd August to a manufacturer of animal traps in Winsford, Cheshire who is also a BFSS member. Although JD devices have usually been sent out in waves it is just possible that it is an isolated individual attack. More likely, the "powers that be" have censored news of the other devices that may have been sent at the same time. The shroud of secrecy on this one incident was so great that even the local media couldn't find out the victims name at the time! I guess we'll just have to wait until the JD sends in a claim to find whether there were other letter bombs at the same time or not. Meanwhile, you'd just better watch this space...

IGNORE IT, IT MIGHT GO AWAY!

Just in time to be included in this article came the news that the ARM had

contaminated tubes of Boots own-brand Formula F toothpaste (Freshmint and Original) with mercury and placed them on the shelves of Boots stores in the High Wycombe, York, Plymouth and Romford areas on 5th and 6th October. Samples of contaminated toothpaste with stenciled statements claiming the action were sent by the ARM to the Boots company and some media.

The press office received the claim on 6th October as there is usually at least a one-day delay via BM4400 address. Meanwhile, on the previous day, I had received a call from a journalist to say that certain media outlets had received the toothpaste and statements, that the police had taken them all and had "requested" no coverage by the media. It appears that all the media outlets that knew about the contamination claim agreed not to carry the story. Since then I have tried to get some coverage through other means but, so far, to no avail.

I know there have been a number of questions posed already throughout this article but...was Boots own-brand toothpaste removed from the shelves as a precaution bearing in mind what the Animal Rights Militia have been all too clearly doing recently? If not, why not? Whether it's a hoax or not, should the police be allowed to take chances?

In a similar vein albeit on a smaller scale, Boots and a butchers shop in Huntingdon had the windows damaged with glass etching fluid on 25th September and a van belonging to the infamous Interfauna animal breeders was damaged on the same night. The media did not carry the story in even the most local newspapers. Clearly "someone in authority" has decided to once again draw a veil of secrecy over animal liberation activities in an attempt to disguise the true scale of what is actually going on. A

recent snippet of information from a mole says that Boots are losing no less than £2-million each week through animal liberation activities, from window etching to arson attacks. And that's just one animal abuser! Is it any wonder they're getting worried and trying to cover things up?

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ALF?

Well, the Animal Liberation Front seems to be pleased to have all the company out there fighting the same battle; the Justice Department, Animal Rights Militia, Poultry Liberation Organization, Hunt Retribution Squad have all helped to raise awareness of the issues and put animal abusers on the defensive.

Just a taster of what's been happening on the ALF scene includes the Co-operative Dairy in Torquay during the early hours of 15th August when nine lorries had tyres slashed, slogans painted, refrigeration units turned off and treatment with generous helpings of paint stripper. Four milk floats were also badly damaged. Credit must go, unusually, to the Western Morning News which devoted more space to press office comments about the links between the dairy industry and the veal/live exports trade than it gave to details of the actual attack. Perhaps it's the growing anger at the continuation of live exports that is encouraging attacks against the dairy industry or maybe people generally are gradually realizing that without the dairy industry there would be no veal calves at all.

In the last edition of the SG newsletter I reported that 100 guinea pigs had been rescued from A.Tuck and Sons of Battlesbridge in Essex who breed animals for vivisection. That raid was dedicated to two recently arrested activists. That action took place on 9th April; then on 11th September Tuck's were

visited again and 470 guinea pigs, the entire stock of the unit, were rescued (see front cover photo). This latest action was carried out despite on-site security patrols and the activists say they will be back - again and again - until Tuck's closes down.

Hens, rabbits, dogs and many other species of animals - every one an individual - are rescued on a regular basis up and down the country and in other countries as well. Economic sabotage, from glued locks and catapulted windows to major arson attacks are also regular features of the ongoing and determined struggle for animal liberation...not welfare, not "rights", but liberation...nothing more, nothing less.

THANKS... THANKS... AND THANKS...

Thanks for all the support from so many of you during the recent hassles, it really meant a lot to know you were there. Particular thanks to those who offered special love and help; it wouldn't be wise to name them here for their sakes but they know who they are.

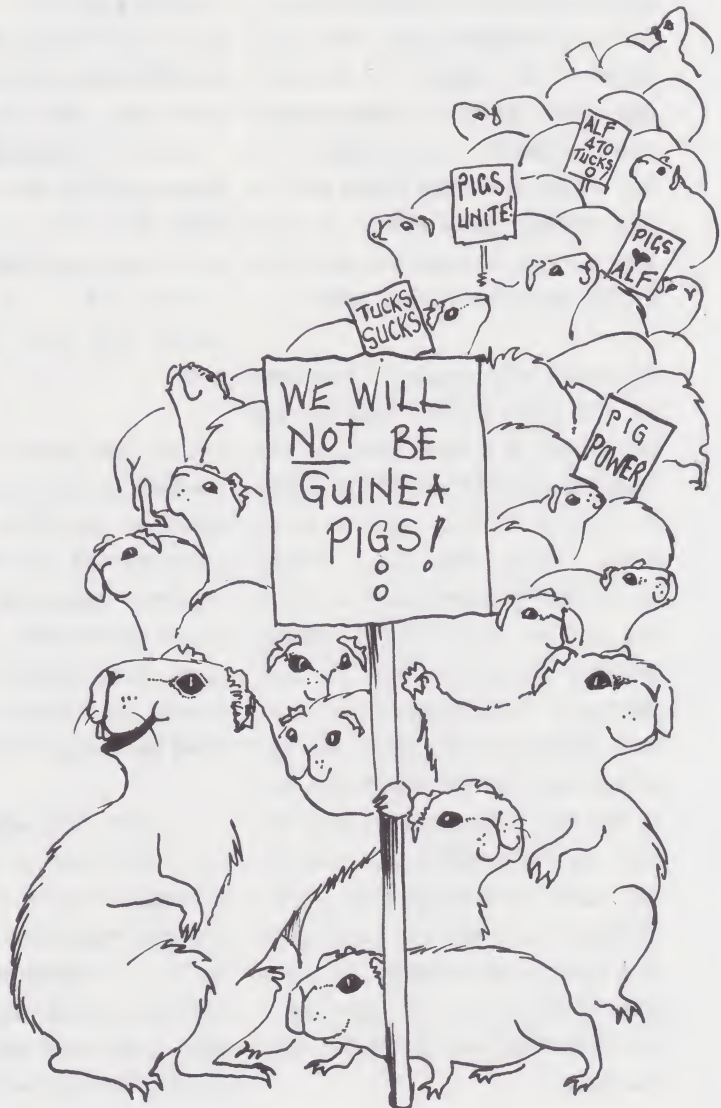
Thanks to those who have given their freedom in the past, who are forgoing their freedom now and who will sacrifice their freedom in the future. Never forget, the animal abusers and the establishment can never hold out against animal liberation because although they can imprison individuals they can never imprison an ideal.

A final thanks to those out there who make the work of the SG and Press Office necessary and who bring hope and happiness to countless brothers and sisters of other species..take care, stay free, never give up.

Robin Webb

STOP PRESS

In the early hours of 7th October one of the largest family owned slaughterhouses in the West Country at Treburley near Launceston, was completely gutted by fire and five refrigerated lorries also destroyed. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attacks. Three other transporters and a tractor also had incendiary devices placed in them which failed to activate.



THE WHOLE TRUTH

On 13th February '93 I was arrested and subsequently charged with planting an incendiary bomb in a shop called Parsons & Parsons in Belfast.

My trial was originally due to start last November but the day before the trial, while I was in conference with my barristers, the DPP came in and told us that the trial would not go ahead. Instead there would be application to have the police surveillance team testifying from behind screens, if this wasn't enough they then said that they would make an application to adjourn the application!

The application was adjourned first for two weeks and further adjourned until the start of the trial. The trial was first listed for April then May then August. At hearings in December and May it transpired that the police who spend vast amounts of time following around AR people in Belfast are part of some crack surveillance team (we believe they are called S14), who are trained in surveillance for one year (could have fooled me) before being let out on the streets. There are only 17 of these in Belfast and 7 were following me throughout the day. Hence the powers of darkness didn't want them to be seen as it would "blow their cover". The Judge ruled that they could testify from behind screens. This was a legal precedent in Northern Ireland because it has only been done in paramilitary trials before and never before a jury (Even in paramilitary trials it is only done on rare occasions).

Up until the start of the trial we continually demanded disclosure of a large amount of stuff that they either refused to give or denied they had. Four days before the start of the trial we were told for the first time that in addition to the shop 'specializing in field sports wear' the owner was a hunt master! This was the first time that they had admitted what the motive was (during questioning I had been told it was because the shop sold some leather).

On the first day of the trial, behind the scenes my

barrister was demanding to know why I had been followed that day. (Now the disclosure laws are different here, you have to prove that the material is useful for the defense before you can get it disclosed, this is a bit hard as you don't know what use it is until you get it) They got suspiciously worried at this and offered a deal - they would pretend they hadn't been following me and drop all references in the interviews to animal rights and to people they alleged I knew if I admitted to being in the shop. This was fine by me because I had never denied being in the shop and had no intentions of doing so. This made a big difference to the trial as the jury would have been immediately biased by the people testifying from behind screens and would have felt that they must have known I was up to something to be following me in the first place.

The trial opened with the DPP saying I was too small to be legitimately shopping in an adult clothes shop! And making out that the fact that I had firelighters in my house was a major piece of evidence. (As there's no gas in this bit of Ireland most people have coal fires, including myself.) As most of the jury probably had coal fires this was probably not a wise move on his part. The only actual evidence - I was in the shop, fibres matching the ones in my gloves were found on the coat (the device was in the pocket of a coat) and my gloves contained a paraffin like vapor (they suggested that this was from firelighters used in the device, but we now know that it was from the paraffin wax used on wax jackets).

It transpires that the device had been taken out of the pocket by a shop assistant who spends all day handling clothes, the coat was then left in the warehouse. An officer takes it from there through the streets to the police station and hangs it up in the CID office for a couple of hours before "bagging" it, he doesn't even know when he actually bagged it.

The device consists of a clock with wires attached which is then passed around the jury, who now all know how to make one of their very own! A detailed description of how it works is also given by some ex-public school type from one of the bomb squad, so the press and everyone else in the court knows how to make one! (There should be laws against this sort of thing).

Half way through the third day the jury are sent home so that we can discuss the admissibility of interview notes. Out of four days of interviews the DPP drop all but the first interview, possibly because I was so ill I had to see the doctor 13 times. We also want the first interview dropped, due to not having access to a solicitor and demand to cross examine the interviewing sergeant. The DPP say he's on extended sick leave in France and so if we demand his presence the trial will have to be declared a mis-trial and re-listed in a few months time when he's better. I am now given a choice of dropping our challenge to the notes or risking another delay. As I'd already been on bail for 18 months I didn't want a further delay but decide to take the risk, if only out of spite! We go back into court, (just in front of the Judge) and the DPP say that the DS in question may well pop his clogs before we can get him back, lots of legal arguments go on and it looks like the trial may well get kicked out completely as we can't re-list it if the DS is going to snuff it soon. The Judge decides to sleep on it. Next day the DS appears, alive and well and in court (must have been at Lourdes). The DPP now ask for a second deal, we edit the first interview so that it just says I gave an account of my movements for the day and admitted to being an 'animal rights sympathizer'. No problem. Next it's my big moment, I'm tempted to say I made the Chief prosecutor look like a complete prick, but actually he did it all by himself. He asked me all about how many times I'd been attacked by hunts and asked me to give details (I wondered if he'd got mixed up and thought he was defending). He asked if the hunt were in the habit of attacking small people, and I said 'small things in general really, usually furry ones with four legs, but they are also violent towards people'. Then the motive behind his question suddenly became clear. He suggested that as I'd been attacked a few times it would be a perfectly normal reaction to try and burn down a

shop which sells clothes to hunt types!! See, even the DPP try to justify ALF actions.

He went on to suggest that it was suspicious that I should want to buy a wax jacket (that's what I went in the shop for) because only hunt types wore them and therefore, I being anti-hunt would not wear the same clothes as them! He claimed that I was only wearing gloves that day to prevent my prints getting on the device, I pointed out that would be pretty stupid being as they had holes in.

After a total of five days the jury took two hours to return a not-guilty verdict. What surprised me about the trial is that the jury only saw half of what went on. About a third of the time was taken up negotiating deals behind the scenes, these deals effectively got rid of 50% of what they jokingly called evidence. The important lesson to learn is to push them further than you or they dare go. When the odds seem stacked against you, believe in yourself and have the courage to fight them to the end.

Nina Wilson

'A' Cat

Either I'm having fun or time flies no matter what. It's not the most happening of places this aint, but it's October already and I don't seemed to have noticed the last six months disappear. Anyway, here's some of it.

After five months I was taken off the escape list, presumably, I'm no longer likely to attempt to escape, but then the cat A business should prevent that. So now I can wear my own clothes again, which is nice. That's all it does for me though, the other problems, like those visitors who have been trying to get access to the jail, continue, and will do so for as long as I'm category A, and have Greater Manchester police vetting my visitors. Conveniently it was from a GMP station that I went missing - their HQ at Stretford - it's hardly surprising then that just about everyone who applies to visit is rejected. In the last six months they've allowed me to see my family and have cleared a handful of friends to visit, but as far as the latter go, there has to be a catch. No friends or 'supporters' can visit unless they're unable to. That sentence does read right and that's how it is. Of the six people who have been passed fit to visit two never will, because as the police well knew they were red herrings put forward so I could work out some method in their campaign of rejection. The authorities refuse to say what sort of people they deem suitable to visit, it clearly has nothing to do with criminal records or prison security so all that's left is consideration for animals and availability to visit, anyone who strikes positive on those two points gets rejected (indeed their questions are aimed at these subjects exactly). Of the other four: one's in London and isn't readily available to visit, one's in Holland and is even less able to; the third was supposed to be in Kenya doing voluntary work and that's what she told her police interviewers, but just before she was due to leave she was told by the police she's been cleared, and her plans changed temporarily so she's been able to visit.

Then there was the most ridiculous episode with the last of the acceptables. She was actually the first to be passed before the rot set in- and indeed the quickest, they say it takes 3 weeks, it took four in her case, but the average is eight. This was obviously a mistake; she slipped through the net, because, after she'd visited half a dozen times without even a whiff of their imaginary security problems the message I got one morning was that she's no longer welcome. The reason given was the police had said she should be banned - just like that! She has no criminal record and did nothing to threaten prison security but that doesn't matter because that's got nothing to do with it.

Everyone else who's tried has been rejected without explanation, all that's forthcoming is that it's because of what the police say and the police are sulking and want to get their own back. Thing is all the while they throw their weight around here and pretend to protect the public by refusing me access to visitors the loonies at large proceed apace. And it's not really very cost effective is it - rather than say no before we start they prefer to have to go through the motions, which are obviously costly and time consuming, especially for the police. Cutting one's nose to spite one's face perhaps? It doesn't really matter to me I know people care and I know they're there and once I'm sentenced I'll be decategorised and then able to see who the hell I like. Not right are they?!

My trial has been fixed for January 11th at the Old Bailey, I have a PTR in November so expect to be moved from here sometime in October, but that's not definite. It's a bit of a shame in a way because things have now improved quite a lot on the food front.

It took 3 months for the kitchen to submit that their margarine isn't vegan after all and they now issue

Blues

stuff that is. Getting vegan margarine hasn't been such a problem before now, even here 18 months ago it was issued weekly, but all of a sudden their's is vegan, they say, but don't even know what vegan is. Anyway that's sorted. Progress, eh? Better though is that in the canteen, they've now agreed to sell vegan supplies and that is progress, but it took some persuading. Joanne Brown who operates the vegan prisoners support group did her share of that. I wouldn't have had much hope with the way things are without outside help. Likewise, Holloway is also now vegan friendly thanks to Joanne's help. Here we can now buy braised tofu, dried apricots and bananas, herbal teas, biscuits, mixed nuts, Plamil mint and plain chocolate, banana chips and Soya milk. And that's a vast improvement. They won't sell this stuff to anyone that isn't officially vegan, much to the annoyance of some of them. The first day it appeared on the price list sixty orders went in and were all rejected. It sounds pretty stupid to me but I've said all I'm saying on the subject, if they want vegan supplies they'll just have to go vegan.

It was Anthony smartarse Miller saying something about being released early because he was being a pain in the arse and the prison wanted rid that made me wonder whether he was telling the whole truth, though I never imagined just what a lie he was living. It just doesn't happen like that, people that are a pain usually stay a bit longer. It's Governor Munns that won't let me have a saxophone because of the noise it'll make - cheeky git - they aren't that loud and it's not as if anyone gives a toss but him, and he's not here to listen to it, and noise is hardly taboo in here with the multitude of stereos rocking the joint - he must be suggesting I'm not up to playing it. Granted I can't yet, that's why I want to learn, but he won't let me. He won't let me go to education - because I'm dangerous - and he won't let me teach myself, it must be some kind of backward rehabilitation program: lie to them, steal from them, interfere with all their mail, ban their visitors, feed them crap, exclude them from the gym and education then after a few years release them, they'll have learnt loads of respect. Hmmm.. One thing I will be good at by the time I've done is complaining, that's about all they do give us to do, but I can't imagine I'll ever need the skill as much as I do within these many walls. Mind you if A.Miller's theory is correct I'll be

out by Friday.

Then there's Jan Creamer, the RSPCA, and Anon. They've all given me an excuse to swear to myself. If you read the last SG you will know what Jan has been doing for unity within the animal liberation movement. The powers that be and their animal abusing pals love people like Jan doing their job for them. Maybe, Jan, you should be honest and make the NAVS official priority to attack animal activists. As for the RSPCA's latest initiative, the 'Freedom Foods' one, what can you say - all that effort and expense for nothing! It didn't even look good on face value, but after I read it all I was trying to work out was how it was possible to go to so much effort to achieve nothing. Certainly the animals won't benefit, and isn't that what it's all about? There are either some very ignorant people in control of that organization or some very corrupt ones.

As for Anon's friendly criticism of the Justice Department I'm not all that sure exactly what his/her problem is, what it is you want them to do. How do you conclude they've isolated themselves from the general public? If by doing what the general population don't, then so they have, so we all have. And so what? The general public don't give a shit what happens to animals and I don't see the JD or any other illegal group giving a toss what the public think, that isn't what I'm concerned with. Isn't the recipients of JD devices that are being isolated? The ALF have always been accused of bombings; of blowing up and poisoning babies, but so what? Let them call names, the ALF have got it right - the point's been proven - it doesn't matter what other people think.

Perhaps Anon should have put his/her name and address to the letter then the JD or whoever could pop off a copy of their bombmaking video and you could then put your ideas into action rather than criticising what other people do, especially when they're clearly having the desired effect. Is that incitement? Oh dear, another charge sheet...All I'm doing is trying to work out what it is Anon wants and that seems to be about it. I would advise caution though before opening any unexpected parcels: do like those bad people have to do these days - phone the bomb squad in case it's an exploding one. Certainly said individuals aren't

impressed by the emergence of the JD and their devices, not a bit of it, it doesn't matter beyond that does it? Let the public complain, it's their fault the abuse happens in the first place and as for the media, well...

Bright ideas how to attack animal abuse (had I put 'rs' behind that word this would likely be deemed to incite violence but I didn't) would be welcomed by all activists. Perhaps Anon should list them. I think s/he will discover that there's very little hasn't been tried, every effective and spectacular action is employed, physical attacks have long been expected by some of the more extreme vivisectors but these days they all expect it. Is that good? I'm sure time will tell. The people that matter are the people that care, quite a few of them write to the lib loonies in jail, from these people market research suggests beyond doubt that the vast majority are in favor of the latest initiatives which complement those already employed by the ALF etc. Their actions too, like those of hunt sabs are lied about, misquoted, distorted and even ignored when it suits. Stuff public opinion, it's not them that are being tortured, we should do whatever the bad people don't like us doing.

Thanks once again to the SG for everything and to every individual that's used their time to offer support, you're invaluable all of you.

Keith Mann



Photo: Some of the 470 Guinea pigs liberated from A.Tuck and Sons, Essex on 11th September.

ALF Training Camp Report

Hi there,

Thanks for all your letters and apologies if I haven't replied yet. I have slowed down in my letter writing, but after a year and a half I think that's understandable. With six months to go you are lucky I'm not boring you with all my plans of what I'm going to do when I get out, yet.

In the next few weeks I should hear if they are going to let me out on the media course at college and in the meantime Angie and I are working as hard as ever with the recycling. Its nowhere as bad as you might imagine. We have even got the internal shop selling Vegan yogurts and biscuits now, so don't have to go without too often, although I have a craving for green cabbage. Its surprising the things you miss.

Anyway, this is a super fit Netty, just returned from a week of rock climbing/canoeing/abseiling/mountain and forest walking. The outward bound course (that they don't seem to have considered might help me in my future law breaking ha ha) was great fun and also very hard work. Very little sleep and wonderful food almost made up for stepping off a cliff backwards! After all your natural instinct screams at you not to do it! I froze at first and said (in a very stern voice, loud enough to turn a few sheep's heads) that I'd changed my mind and didn't want to do it after all thank you. The instructor told me to look at him instead of down (which wasn't helping) and I managed it and rushed back up for another go with my new-found confidence. I'm sure that if there had been an animal stranded half way down I would have been able to do it easily, because in those situations something takes over and you can do the most incredible things without batting an eyelid.

Some parts were really funny, like one of the girls totally overdressed (high fashion) to go to the village centre; and watching Van Damme films all night and leching like mad. Also took some good photos of us dangling in the air and surprisingly we are smiling on most of them. The three vegans were first up in the morning and last to bed, full of energy - shining example of vegan power ha ha. We may have converted one of the gym staff, especially when she saw what we were eating bore no resemblance to what we get in prison - it was crunchy instead of soggy and salty for a start.

Well its been a busy couple of weeks for news as well. The press officer is out on bail after being arrested with another man (!), bound to happen repeatedly I suppose in his job. Aston University has stopped animal experiments in favour of other methods, which is very good news and 14 other University labs have followed too I hear. Four shops including Boots and a Cancer Research Shop were damaged by fire on the Isle of Wight. I really don't see how Boots can carry on animal experiments under such pressure and with such losses, £4 million in just a couple of months. Their public image must be severely damaged because people are hearing about it and questioning why they are targets. I also heard from America that a primate breeder had 33 baby monkeys stolen, but it hasn't been claimed as yet. The dealer has done for orangutan smuggling in the past so would be a very likely target.

My birthday is coming soon and I am hoping to order some food and nice toiletries from outside. There is not a lot else I am allowed to have or can afford at the moment so it might be a better idea to ignore birthdays until I am out and have several parties belatedly. I'm sure I could convince myself that I am the same age as when I came inside and any excuse for a party! The only treat I have planned is to buy a load of phonecards and call all the people I haven't been able to talk to for ages, so if you send me a little postal order and your phone number perhaps I can ring you up too.

Well, keep up the good work for the animals and we prisoners are always glad to hear from you and be remembered.

We'll be back

Annette Tibbles

4 YEARS AND A SIGH

Thanks for all your help and support, it's been brilliant. The money has allowed me to stock up on lots of goodies.

On Thursday 30th September I received 4 years which as you can imagine I'm really pleased with. I am still waiting to see if they're going to charge me for the London Hospital raid, they've said they are and tried to visit me Thursday but I refused.

Before court we'd already sorted out deals with the prosecution so it was just up to the judge to make his decision.

I pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to commit criminal damage but guilty to conspiracy to cause arson, I was given three years for that.

I pleaded not guilty to violent disorder but guilty to affray, I was given six months for that and the whole case against Laundry Farm was dropped. They expected not guilty pleas. It was also stated that it was not my voice claiming certain actions although they'd indicated it was at Annette Tibbles' and Richard Duriez's trial.

I was given six months for breach of bail on three counts, all consecutive so four years in all. Really they couldn't have given me less than four.

Is there a moral in this story somewhere? I fucked off and I'm better off for doing so.

In all with remand time from before when we were first nicked and time in police custody I've done nearly eight months so that's 16 months or just over left to do. I've put in to be transferred to Newhall House as I'd be better off there. Annette's now out at college five days a week and should get home leaves soon so I hardly see her and there's nothing really to keep me here.

If another trial does take place I should get off

because I am innocent or if they do stitch me up, hopefully I shouldn't get any more time, but I will expect the worse, just in case.

It was quite stressful going to court and everything and I'm so relieved it's all over with for now.

Thanks again for everything, you know I'll repay it back one way or another. Oh I'm not being done for anything in Hastings, we were originally arrested for Boots, some lorries and sending things through the post but they are gonna try and do Keith which doesn't make sense, but what does?

Cheers.

Yours for animal liberation

Angie

Note: Anyone wishing to visit Angie should contact Enfield Animal Concern, PO Box 194, Enfield, EN1 38D who are organizing a rota for her. Angie's birthday is on the 30th November so if anyone wishes to send cards or an extra letter please feel free.

Colin Chatfield

Colin Chatfield was sentenced to 121 days at Barrow-in-Furness magistrates court at the beginning of October This was for making a hoax bomb threat to a branch of Boots in the summer. Colin is being held at:

**Colin Chatfield CB2966
HMP Acklington
Acklington Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9XF**

He should be released on the 25th of November.

Well here I am, serving 120 days in prison. 120 days may sound a lot. But I'll only have to serve 60 of them. This in comparison to Max Watson's sentence, his friends and countless others that are also imprisoned, is a very, very short sentence. I can only say that I hope the years being served by all ALF activists, is as quickly over, and the experience quickly forgotten. This is my third animal rights connected imprisonment, it has only made me want to increase my campaign against Boots, MacDonalds and all other animal abusers. Although, upon release, I will have to take a back seat from direct action, (until my mind once again insists that I can sit back no longer). I am released on the 25th of November so for the first two weeks, I will relax with my son (Rowan aged two) and visit friends, family and loved ones. After this, I will step up my campaign against Boots, MacDonalds, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and all other local animal using establishments. I have a lot of anti-Boots/vivisection supporters in Barrow-in-Furness, so with the help of them and some persuasion to the local press/media I can give Boots a hard time. You may ask why I have singled out Boots as my main target. Well it's simple. They own their own laboratories, and they have so much money and power. The more they get away with, the more irate

I become. The more they get away with, the more profits to spend on torturing animals. A lot of people might not think quite the same as I do. But if we don't fight for the rights of all living species, then we may as well not exist ourselves, when all the animals have gone, we will follow. I could go on for ever but feel I don't need to. Keep up the struggle, increase the pressure.

Colin Chatfield

PS. I am really amazed at how quickly the SG wrote to me. I've been in Acklington a few days. Yours was the first letter I received (due to being shuffled about by the authorities). Thanks, it really made my day. I'm expecting to hear from friends and relatives now that I have sent my address back home. Keep up the good work. Yours for total animal/human liberation.

INSANE OR HUMANE?

In early 1994, a Holland activist was convicted of 18 counts of criminal damage relating to environmental actions. He was originally sentenced to 5 years in prison, but the authorities are now attempting to have him classified as "insane", which could mean a life sentence. Paul needs international support. Please send letters to him at:

**Paul F.
C/o PO Box 92066
1090 AB
Amsterdam
Netherlands**

DIANE & LAURA

Diane Selvanayagam and Laura Nicol were both imprisoned for 21 days at the end of September for refusing to accept a bindover after being found guilty of breach of the peace after an incident on a sab of a fishing match. Both women were sent to HMP Low Newton to serve their sentence. By the time this newsletter is printed both will have been released.

Just a short note to say thanks for the postal order and newsletter, it made good reading and is also enabling me to write to other A/R prisoners since the addresses are at hand.

I have also received a number of cards and letters from A/R people from around the country as a response to your mailout.

It'll not be long before I'm out sabbing again as we are out on the 6th October.

Thanks for your support.

Love and Liberation

Laura Nicol

GURJ AUJLA

Thanks for all your magnificent support. I've been getting 20 letters a week and I am trying to reply to everyone.

You all probably know by now that I'm on cat 'A' and apart from hassle over visits (only family have been allowed yet and that's on closed visits) it's not a problem, I've got a single cell and I'm in good spirits.

I think it was a good idea to include the two earth activists on the list, as the environmental issues are of fundamental importance to animal liberation. I heard from Green Anarchist about a Dutch eco-saboteur Paul S. who was arrested and declared insane. I mean, may have been declared insane by now.

I was sorry to hear about Miller being a fake but glad to hear Viv is free again. Finally I heard from the Swedish groups, they're really busy.

Take care, for empty cages

Gurj

Benefit Tape

A benefit tape of music from bands such as, Oi Polloi, Disorder, Political Asylum, Virtual Reality and others has been produced with profits going to the ALF Supporters Group, price \$6. For further information contact;

Dimitris, PO Box 20032, 55110, Thessaloniki, Greece .

Try not. Do, or do not.
There is no try.

YODA

Who's afraid of the

CJB

The 1986 Public Order Act was widely touted as the death knell of the hunt sab movement - eight years, hundreds of court cases, tens of thousands of pounds in damages against the police later, we're still here and saving lives. The Criminal Justice Bill already looks like collapsing under the weight of its own incompetence and it's not even law yet (latest estimates are that it will be passed by parliament late October/early November - but a lot could change by then). The Home Office/BFSS axis seems to think that all they have to do is tell us we're banned and we'll just forget about the animals we save - they're in for a shock.

Before tackling "aggravated trespass" it's worth taking a look at some of the other sections. Probably the best known of these is the abolition of the right to silence. In fact you can remain silent, but the judge can draw attention to this and the jury are entitled to make adverse inferences from this. In practice, it's already pretty obvious to a jury or magistrates whether or not you've made a statement and judges and magistrates often invite juries to draw adverse inferences from your silence. So in practice things may be little different, but it's an important principle as the proposed law undermines the concept of presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

The bill gives the police powers to set bail conditions before you go to court, whereas before such conditions were set by courts. Courts may not always make fair decisions but at least you can present some argument. You would be able to challenge police bail conditions in court but this will take time and magistrates are often loath to overturn

police decisions. Even if bail conditions are eventually overturned you risk instant arrest for breach of what may ultimately be found to be illegal bail conditions. Clearly this system will be open to abuse, enabling the police to arrest people purely to get bail conditions such as not attending any hunts in England and Wales.

The section on terrorism creates new offenses of "going equipped for terrorism" and "possessing information useful to terrorists". The first makes it an offense to have in your possession "any article...in circumstances giving rise to reasonable suspicion" that you have it for "a purpose connected with the commission, instigation or preparation of acts of terrorism." Never mind old fashioned concepts like proof, the "coppers hunch" will instead be enshrined in law. With the second offense there is no attempt to define what a terrorist might be or the type of information deemed useful to them. Could the RSPCA suddenly find that keeping details of battery farms or hunts makes them the target of police on "fishing trip" raids? Colin Blakemore recently obtained an injunction against Vernon Coleman to prevent him publishing his address on the grounds that he was allegedly targeted by "terrorists". Would he have had to bother if this had been in place, or could he have just popped down to his local police station and had Dr. Coleman arrested and banged up? The history of laws allegedly designed to deal with terrorists being used instead to intimidate and punish legitimate activists or even troublesome journalists does not inspire confidence.

We also have the reintroduction of the "sus" law. The police will have the power

to stop and search anyone within a specified radius of a given location if they fear violence. Ostensibly designed to deal with football hooligans this can clearly be extended to all and sundry.

It's probably not necessary to start looking over your shoulder in case anyone finds out about that pile of vegetarian leaflets, and possession of Turning Point is unlikely to become a criminal offense in the near future, but the potential for abuse is there and we will have to monitor the situation closely and mount legal challenges where we can.

The Bill proposes a new offense of "aggravated trespass" which is defined as doing anything on private land which is intended to obstruct/disrupt a lawful activity taking place, on that or adjoining land, or intimidating those participating in such activity. Anyone who commits this offense is liable to arrest and on conviction a fine of up to £2,000 or jail for up to three months.

The police will have wide ranging powers to enforce this. If a senior officer present reasonably believes you're committing/about to commit/intend to commit the offense, he can ask you to leave the land in question. If you do not do so, or if you come back onto the land within three months he can arrest you. If the senior officer believes that two or more people are trespassing with the common purpose of obstructing/disrupting/intimidating he can ask them to leave the land and the same as before applies.

There are also amendments to the 1986 Public Order Act powers on trespassory assemblies; it is unclear if they would be applicable to sabs but seem more aimed at festivals and Stonehenge. Late amendments in the House of Lords have also included common land and waterways (presumably aimed at angling sabs and mink hunt sabs) in the definition of "land" that can be trespassed on.

Aggravated trespass is wide ranging and may be used against road protesters, protesters carrying out peaceful pickets, rambles on grouse moors and farmland, football fans and anyone a landowner may take a dislike to.

So what does aggravated trespass mean in practice? Erm, dunno is the simple answer. The bill is so badly drafted and the powers so widely defined that it's nigh impossible to tell exactly what will happen should it come into force. It's not just us that feel like this, most police forces and lawyers don't seem to know what the Bill would be like in practice

either. One reason is that to some extent any new legislation is defined by the court's interpretation of it. Until this first round of convictions, appeals, acquittals it will be left to the police interpretation. Which means application across the country will probably vary.

Under the most extreme reading you can't even sab from a footpath and even looking like a sab in the vicinity of a hunt would give reasonable grounds for arrest. There are some who feel that the police may be able to throw a cordon for some miles around a hunt and nick any likely-looking characters inside it. This is unlikely to be upheld by the courts but this may not stop some forces trying it on next season. At the other end of the scale is the view that the Bill will only effect serious disorder by trespassers. So in practice it will be about what forces think they can get away with or are pressured by Home office, local hunts, the media etc to do. A force that goes mob-handed to arrest every sab within a five mile radius of a hunt will

face a tidy damages bill if subsequent rulings on their powers go against them and most forces got their fingers burnt in this way with the Public Order Act.

Although this article has concentrated on the downside of the Bill, we have a history of overcoming obstacles. Hunts have tried everything from injunctions to violence to, well, more violence to stop saboteurs and if anything we're hitting more hunts and shoots than ever. Arbitrary oppression by police and courts is also nothing new to most animal rights activists and many people reading this will have recognized tactics that the police have employed against them for years under the guise of "breach of the peace" or "conspiracy". In many ways the Criminal Justice Bill just formalizes a lot of the dirty tricks that have been used against us for years. They haven't stopped us yet and they won't do now.

HSA



Time for Unity

The intention behind this collection of words is to prevent in-fighting and bring us closer together, but the words need action from us all!

At the moment there seems to be a lot of bad feeling within the animal rights movement which is directed towards certain groups and individuals by other groups around the country. I am particularly concerned by the bad feeling within the hunt sab movement.

First of all, some people have a problem with me. What am I seen as? The HSA committee, an ex-committee member, a member of Nottingham sabs, a sab, or an individual? Well, I hope I am only known for being the last two of these, because I was never the 'HSA Committee'. I was just one person who thought he had something to give the HSA and sabs in the fight against bloodsports.

After being on the committee a while I realized that everything I did would be seen as the actions of a committee member and not of an individual sab. So, if I made the mistake or did something that someone didn't like, nobody said anything directly to me about it. Instead they moaned about the committee. Well I suppose it's trendy to do that, but those people should only think about this.

I hope that I never gave the impression that I was 'the committee' - it was never my intention to do so. I know that some committee members do give that impression, but on the whole it is other sabs who put the committee up there on a pedestal in the first place. Why?

Like all of us, committee members are volunteers. They work for the HSA

(which in one way or another hopefully does help to save animals' lives) without getting paid. Now I'm not saying that committee members should get a reward, or even a thanks (although when something does go right it would be nice to hear it). But slagging off committee members just for its own sake only causes friction between ourselves, friction we cannot afford. Division is the way backwards, not forwards.

At the HSA's recent Annual General Meeting, questions were asked about sabbing angling. The issue was the relatively low number of fishing matches which sabs disrupt. A sab, who is not a committee member, put forward the view that it might have something to do with the fact that a lot of sabs used to go fishing themselves. The next day there was a rumour going round that one of the committee members goes fishing!

What the hell is going on? Either those who spread these rumours were police infiltrators trying to split us up, or they are very stupid (the words 'police' and 'stupid' are often closely linked). So why was the rumour started?

If you don't like something that's happening in the HSA, why not phone the office (0602 590357) and express your opinion? Better still, why not write in, or come to our meetings or even take on a committee post yourself? This would be better, surely, than hiding away, moaning on about the committee and spreading gossip.

This is an important point and I speak from experience. There were many things I didn't like about the HSA's old committee years ago, when Ralph Cook and co were running things. I've been in disagreement with more recent HSA

committees too. However, rather than criticizing and doing nothing, my response has always been to express my views and try to change things for the better.

Hopefully, the people on the HSA committee are not going to bring the HSA down, or turn it into another League Against Cruel Sports, but we can all make sure it doesn't happen by getting involved in the HSA.

Of course, criticizing can be a good thing, but only if it is relevant and justified. However, recently some people have been slagging off committee members simply because of personal differences. It's true, perhaps, that certain committee members have annoyed people with their attitude. But that is the fault of the individuals concerned and is not the fault of the whole committee, which consists of twelve people. Not all committee members are alike, but for some reason, they all get treated the same.

What is needed is action, not rhetoric. The HSA's problems would be better tackled by people taking an interest in what's going on and by sabs becoming active in the decision making process. What's stopping you?

On a related subject, I was recently out sabbing with some other groups, when one group came over to ours and suggested an action that we could all take part in. For various reasons, sabs from Nottingham were not keen on the idea. Individual, personal experience convinced me and others that the idea wasn't a sensible one.

At this point, members of the other group started slagging us off and trying

to 'guilt trip' us, saying that the animals were dying now and so on. They also made the more general point that we 'never do anything'.

I won't go into all the arguments here because they are lengthy, but the question must be asked, Who the hell do these people think they are, telling another group of individuals that they are worse than useless, just because they wouldn't do what they were told? If there were any new sabs out that day, I'm sure it would have been their last.

Nottingham sabs were also accused of only ever doing what I say! If that was the case, we would have been sabbing the Cottesmore four times a week for the last few years. The sab who made this accusation later said that they had been told this by someone else.

It is this sort of attitude we do not need. Everyone does what they can and to the best of their ability. Sabs don't need a sermon on what they should or shouldn't do, nor should they be subjected to a load of attitude which is similar to that of the police. It only annoys them and makes them think twice about sabbing with that group. There are plenty of other people to argue with, rather than fellow sabs. We should respect the decisions of those who don't want to be involved in actions which they believe carry unacceptable risks.

I'll try and finish on a positive note. It's about time we started to work together. Use the HSA, don't abuse it. Communicate with each other, within the groups, within the regions and within the country. We have the hunts, shooters, fishermen, BFSS, security, police, courts, MPs, civil servants, House of Lords and many other organisations against us. Instead of fighting each other, we should fight these organisations.

Let's start now. We are winning, but as we all know, it's an uphill struggle. There are hundreds of good sabs out there, so let's start to work together. I know it might be difficult, but we've got to put our differences aside to save more lives. Use this space to put your ideas over and communicate. There's nothing wrong with criticism, as long as it's constructive.

And if you want to slag me off, do it to my face and remember that it's got nothing to do with the HSA committee or the other sabs in the Nottingham group!

HSA Committee Member

Bit ing Back

I'm writing in reply to Gareth Gee's letter (SG Newsletter Summer '94).

I read with interest the articles and letters revealing the hypocrisy and corruption of national organisations, but I was disappointed to see the HSA included.

I know a bit about the HSA as a national organization because I've been on the committee for 2 years and in addition an active sab for a few years previous.

I'd like to point out that the

majority of current committee members are extremely hard working for the HSA (Paul Davies included) and we are all anti-fascist. If Gareth had turned up to the occasional meeting he would have known that!

I was appalled that HOWL 54 (the issue written by Gareth after his resignation) was not dominated by sabbing articles even though loads were sent in to the office for inclusion. Is he really interested I ask myself? According to various ACTIVE persons in Nottingham Gareth's latest girlfriend works at Dow Chemicals analyzing LD50 results. Sorry to get personal but I don't like being labeled a copper/fascist lover. I really object to being called naive regarding police activities. Does he really think that as an active sab I haven't been assaulted, harassed, unlawfully arrested and humiliated by coppers?

If I'm still around when the HSA no longer functions as a strong, committed organization I won't duck out of it. Surely it's better to try and change it - not for personal egotistical reasons but for the hunted animals.

Isn't that what we're supposed to be directing our energies towards?

In defense of the HSA,

Karen

Current Salesgoods Officer, and current Nottingham sab.

If only...

Increasingly angling is creeping onto the blood-sports agenda. But how can we expect members of the public to take the issue seriously when we are so divided amongst ourselves within the animal liberation movement? Most animal rights activists and hunt saboteurs recognize the fact that fish are capable of suffering, at least to some extent. For those still unconvinced, fish have central nervous system and they are well endowed with pain receptors (if still in doubt why not contact the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling for a scientific report?).

But even amongst those within the animal liberation movement who accept that fish do feel pain, most give less priority to saving the lives of those scaly, cold-blooded creatures who live out of sight in the water. The fact is that by sabotaging even just one solitary angler out for a couple of hours, never mind a fishing match, more lives could be saved than during a whole days activities on a fox-hunt. Worse still, how many times do hunt sabs on their way home from a days sabbing a fox hunt drive past people who are terrorizing, maiming and killing fish?

Why is it that angling sabs aren't happening? Is it because it's less exciting than fox hunt sabbing, it's not 'cool' and 'macho'. Is it that it receives less public sympathy? Most people know someone whether it be a friend or relative who goes fishing. Or could it be because those participating in angling aren't usually members of the upper class?

Surely people active in the Animal Liberation Movement shouldn't be influenced by factors such as these. While (non-human) animals are being tortured it is our duty to stop suffering to the BEST of our ability. A common reason given for animal

rights activists and hunt sabs not sabbing angling is that they are genuinely concerned about the level of violence directed at angling sabs. The threat of violence is always a real possibility when angling sabbing and it's understandable that some activists are scared of confrontation. But these same activists are prepared to risk themselves on fox hunt sabs. The cynic could argue that those people rate the life of a fox higher than that of a fish. Indeed this is true of some. Others feel more secure participating in a fox hunt sab because there are more saboteurs and therefore less chance of violence being directed against them. This is perfectly logical...but don't these activists realize that if more people sab angling then the risk of violence could be reduced...it really is a case of safety in numbers.

By not going out on angling sabs these people are not only condemning the fish but fellow activists too. Those animal rights activists who are still not prepared to sab have no excuse for neglecting the angling issue. They can organize demos at the local tackle shop, leafleting sessions and anti-angling displays, campaign to get their council to impose bans or restrictions on fishing, river-side tidy ups etc.

Lets get our act together. We've a long way to go to achieve total liberation.

Laura Nicol & Diane Selvanayagam

...fish could scream.

Alec Kingham

Terrorist Attack!

Alec Kingham who had been convicted of ABH on a huntsman appealed his original non-custodial sentence. On finding him guilty a second time the judge outrageously sent him to prison for three months. Alec served his sentence at HMP Lewes and was released on October 7th.

On Sunday the 2nd of October 1994 an explosive device was placed on or underneath the car of a well known member of the Three Shires Hunt Saboteurs who lives in Milton Keynes. The device exploded at around 9am. The timing and nature of the device was such that no consideration was shown to members of the public in the immediate area which on a Sunday morning was full of people.

This is the first time that any timed device has, to our knowledge, been used against a member of the animal rights movement.

I must interpret the life about me as I interpret the life that is my own. My life is full of meaning to me. The life around me must be full of significance to itself. If I am to expect other to respect my life, then I must respect the other life I see, however strange it may be to mine...We need a boundless ethics which will include the animals also.

DR. Albert Schweitzer

National Watch

The past few months have not been a happy time for the BUAV, at their AGM four new committee members were elected. Janice Box, Louise O'Gara, John McCarthy and Ralph Cook. The last two have been involved in direct action in the past (see POW and informers list) and have more recently been staff at the BUAV. Apparently disgruntled at the direction of the society they have staged a take over bid. The committee now stands at 6 of the old guard and 6 of the young Turks.

The BUAVs newsheet Campaign Report mentions the new committee members but also states that a small vociferous minority were able to use motions....."to remove the Chair of the Committee, Chris Deacon and Committee member Neil Fry." This vociferous minority also included most of those who were newly elected although the piece in the newsheet failed to mention that.

For anyone who doesn't know it Neil Fry is an ex-police officer who after leaving the force infiltrated a lab to gain evidence. He has stated at last years AGM that he would not support those who liberate animals as it was counter-productive!

The main points of difference between the two factions seems to be the campaign style of the BUAV and staff relations. The long standing committee members wish to retain the present level of campaigning which sees most of the work aimed at targets not in this country and so perhaps easier to attack. Whereas the newer member wish for a more traditional approach with heavier emphasis on medical research.

Where the problems really lie is with the tactics being used to fight to keep the present order. As well as the one-sided mention in the Campaign report a release was sent to all members headed

"BUAV campaigns under threat" and was signed by Dominic Johnson, the present chair. This four page, A4 size letter, printed in 2 colours with photos was sent with a pre-paid reply postcard. The envelopes used were also specially printed. Estimated cost is in the region of £5,000.

One of the changes the old committee members wish is to allow proxy votes to be used, thereby allowing one person to vote for as many people who grant them their vote. This would mean that mail-outs like the one mentioned before could keep those in control of the membership list and the funds in control. Originally the change wanted was a postal vote, but this was found to be illegal under company law.

An AGM has been called for the 5th November where those who are from the Old committee will be putting forward resolutions to remove the six members of the committee who are opposed to their ways of working and to have Chris Deacon and Neil Fry reinstated after they were deposed at the last AGM. The resolution for allowing proxy votes is also to be voted on. We urge all members of the BUAV to go along and place their vote wisely. We do not feel it is our place to advise you who to vote for as each side has its faults but the ability to go to the AGMs and have an effect on the actions of the BUAV could be lost at the upcoming AGM and this should at least be challenged.

Still with the BUAV, their South East Regional Organizer recently wrote to an activists who has been charged with certain offences. He wrote: "I am sure you are aware that the BUAV has, for some time, distanced itself from the ALF & violent illegal acts carried out in the name of animal rights/anti-vivisection. The BUAV also requires Contacts to take a similar position as regard acts which may

harm or injure individuals."

The individual in question apart from never having been asked to put forward his beliefs (have any other contacts? We would be interested to know.) has not to date been convicted of any crime. We would have thought it more polite to wait for the outcome of the trial rather than pre-judging the person involved.

Animal Aid recently had the TV presenter Chris Packham modeling one of their T-shirts. Chris claims that he is vegetarian and only eats sea food occasionally!! Another case of Living-without-Commitment?

Finally a big thank you to the LACS member who won their 200 club raffle and passed on the winnings to us. So much for the LACS committee claiming that its members are all against ALF actions!

Every mighty oak
tree is just a nut
that held it's
ground.

S. Grover

OXFORD TRIAL

The Oxford trial finally came to court and disintegrated beneath the prosecution's feet. The charges of Section 2 were reduced to section 4 and everyone received 80 hours community service and ordered to pay £75 towards costs. The Judge commented that he would have liked to make the defendants pay more but as the majority were on benefit it would just be a greater burden on the tax payer!

The reduction in charges may have something to do with a rumour that the prosecution had their holidays booked for the coming Friday.

One defendant Barry Horne failed to appear in court and hasn't been seen since, although with the resultant sentencing the police won't be looking too hard for him.

Who's Gutless?

I am writing because I get very angry at some ALF people saying their supporters are gutless. I am a 23 year old mother, I've been a veggie since the age of 10 and became a vegan aged 18. Since the age of 15 I have respected and admired the ALF, hoping someday to meet other people who feel the same. It was through the Vegan Animal Free Shopper that I heard of the ALF S.G.. I was overwhelmed with pride, I felt so proud knowing the ALF S.G. was in existence I cried, I've got a lot of love for everyone out there liberating.

Unfortunately I have got responsibilities but that does not make me gutless, I still haven't met another person who supports the ALF speaking for myself (from the age of 15) and now sometimes I wish I hadn't got responsibilities and that I was out there liberating like the people I admire, doing something instead of just going on day to day knowing animals are suffering - but also being liberated!

I once worked at a zoo after leaving school, obviously not supporting zoos but I had to try and help animals somehow in my own way. I couldn't sit back doing nothing. I thought at least I could do my best to make sure they were looked after to the best of my ability. I worked from 6.30am to 8-9pm 7 and then 10 days continuously with a two day break for 3 years. They knew I was a veggie when I went there. On a few occasions I was told the animals needed to be hit to keep them in order - obviously I firmly refused but continued to work there as I knew I was putting more care into looking after the animals than anyone else there. Their main concern was the zoo, but I made it clear that the animals came first. Every single morning I looked at all the animals and of course if I knew where they could of been safe I wouldn't have hesitated in setting them free.

Anyway, 2 years on and I became a vegan, the

staff soon realized this due to the food that I brought in and this zoo also catered for veggies and vegans. A few weeks into me being a vegan the zoo was raided by the A.L.F. We were all asked to the manager's office and sat there 2 hours whilst he asked a load of questions. Next morning I was told that I wouldn't be needed that day, I asked why? They said they were looking into the raid by the A.L.F. and I was wanted in the office and once again asked questions for one and a half hours by two policemen.

I was sacked.

I tried to get a job in other zoos and they all said the same, we've heard from your previous zoo. I couldn't believe it, I haven't had a job since. But it was worth losing to know the animals are free! I couldn't believe it, sacking me for suspicion because I was a vegan.

Next year I'll be coming to the demos and marches, I'm looking forward to seeing A.L.F. S.G. and some like-minded people.

Keep Liberating!

Ms A Nonymous.

POLICE RAID

In July 1993 a 52 year old ex-animal rights activist had his home raided by 18 or more plain clothes police officers (at least one of whom was armed) and a video crew.

They broke open the front door, rushed upstairs and arrested both the man and his wife whilst they were still in bed. They were taken to the police station and held in the cells for approx 9 hours - During their incarceration the police thoroughly searched the house, videotaping everything, a metal detector was used in the garden and the police, being ever vigilant noticed a patch of ground had been disturbed, they dug down and unearthed a dead chicken that had been buried a few days earlier.

During the search operation which was supervised by the couple's daughter the police called in SA13 (explosive chappies) who were asked to identify a few items - namely 2 or 3 transmitters (bugs) and a couple of cannisters (skirmish flares used in war games) these they sealed in their own protective containers and removed them.

Many other items were removed during the search - 108 in all, some of them included very damning articles such as 1 can of mineral water, a small bulldog clip, a biro, 5 carrier bags, a piece of white rag and a pet shop receipt for bird seed.

They also removed 3 videotapes entitled "Devices and Desires" (they no doubt thought it was a bombmaking porno movie) but it had subsequently been taped over with a Rod Stewart concert, (gripping evidence). Whilst in the cells the couple were each interviewed twice separately and both exercised their right to silence (eat your Criminal Justice Bill, Michael Howard).

Despite informing the police that they were Vegan they were served with fish cakes, the waiter was promptly told what to do with them.

They were released on police bail without charge at 5.30pm, and some days later were informed that no charges would be forthcoming.

On the days following the raid unmarked police vehicles were seen photographing and monitoring the couples movements to and from the house.

The National Council for Civil Liberty has agreed to represent

the couple and action is now well under way to seek damages from the Commissioner of Police for wrongful arrest, unlawful detention and trespass.

The police have since admitted that the video crew were civilians and that they are jointly liable for the trespass of the said crew.

To date the police have refused to hand over the custody records, interview tapes and a copy of the video tape - Liberty will be requesting these items and they should be forthcoming by the pre-trial review to be held early November.

Finally, this massive police operation was instigated as a result of a pet shop window being smashed and the initial charge was one of suspicion to cause criminal damage (pretty heavy stuff eh!) The moral of this story is - Do not bury dead chickens in your garden - Do not keep bulldog clips, carrier bags, biros or mineral water in your house - Do not buy seed from a pet shop or at least destroy the receipt straight away - Do not tape any T.V. programmes especially Rod Stewart concerts.

This article may be construed as a flippant account of what happened, but it should serve as a reminder that the state recognises the ever-growing threat posed by the animal rights movement and they can, and will, use all the resources at their disposal to crack down on all who oppose animal abuse.

All those involved in animal liberation, far from being complacent, must reflect and say to themselves "There but for the grace of God etc", continue to campaign for animal rights by whatever means necessary and fight the Criminal Justice Bill to the bitter end.

Update in November.

The couple concerned wish to remain anonymous at this stage but no doubt A.R.N.I. will be aware of their identities when they receive their copies of Arkangel and S.G.

Liberty

I am writing this letter to a large number of animal rights campaigning organisations in the hope that as many people as possible will support me in my suggestion.

I recently witnessed an animal rights campaigner get attacked by a member of staff of a circus. This took place in front of about 6 police officers who took no action. When I asked the protester whether she was going to report the attack, she told me several times that she wouldn't bother because it was a waste of time - the police wouldn't do anything. At the same demo the police refused to even take a complaint when another member of staff who'd smashed up a camera was seen to be attempting to drive back into the circus. This type of police behaviour will, of course, be familiar to many animal rights supporters.

In the late 1980's sabs started to take civil actions against the police for wrongful arrests, which seemed to make some police forces back off at hunts, but, it seems to me, until public sympathy is swayed in favour of animal rights supporters, the police and other governing bodies are going to continue to abuse their positions and suppress peaceful protest actions by AR campaigners. It also seems likely, that, once the Criminal Justice Bill is passed, the freedom of AR supporters to protest will be restricted even further.

I've been in touch with Liberty (formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties) which campaigns to "defend all people against abuses of their liberties". Whilst they are involved in the various campaigns against the Criminal Justice Bill, they are not, currently, preparing a report into the way animal rights people are treated by the police, CPS and judiciary. Each year, at their AGM, Liberty decides, in a series of motions, which matters to concentrate their campaign work on. In view of this, I would like as many animal rights campaigners to suggest to Liberty that they take up our case for us. Their address is: Liberty, Freepost, 21 Tabard Street, London, SE1 6BP. Better still, join Liberty and prepare a motion for their AGM.

I think it is fair to say that most animal rights people believe that, by and large, demos they attend or direct actions they take part in are over-policed. In addition, many people feel that the police regularly harass protesters making illegal searches, carrying out unnecessary vehicle checks, handing out HORTI's, behaving in a rude, biased or sarcastic manner etc. AR campaigners also tend to feel that the police largely over-react against AR supporters, arresting them for the most trivial matters, detaining them for excessive lengths of time, denying them their rights in custody and charging them with the most extreme charges they can drum up. On the other hand, if protesters try to

report incidents, the police regularly ignore their complaints or only half-heartedly deal with them. If this was not bad enough, the CPS seem to require higher standards of proof for cases against animal abusers than those against animal rights supporters and, when the cases are finally taken to court, they are often tried by magistrates who know very little about the law. Most animal rights supporters have experienced some or all of these wrongs. It's time Joe Public was alerted to these facts.

Lets stop complaining to each other and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Liz Crocker

BREACH

Breach is a new organization formed by a group of disillusioned ex-campaigners and activists of other conservation organisations. They feel that many of the large groups have lost their raw cutting edge. This is often the case when the people in charge have lavish salaries and comfortable offices and the groups have large assets to protect. The fear of criminal and civil action looms large. Breach have none of these things and aim to be hard-hitting and uncompromising in pursuit of a total ban on whaling.

Whilst breach agree that there is a place for trade embargoes and lobbying in the anti-whaling movement, they feel that the truly effective way to stop whales being slaughtered is non-violent confrontation with the killers at sea.

The organization is based in Goole (yes Goole, not London), for financial reasons and in belief that everyone concerned should be in touch with a maritime atmosphere. They have rented offices overlooking the Goole docks for £40 a week. They feel that supporters care about saving whales, not paying for expensive offices and overheads. The founders are all volunteers, from the office staff to the, so far, shipless ships captain. They want people to feel free to call at YOUR office any time.

Breach are desperately in need of funds to purchase and put to sea an ex-whaler so that they may confront the whalers on their killing grounds.

Anyone interested in joining Breach Supporters Group and possibly helping with fundraising should contact them at:

Breach
Top Floor, 3 St. Johns Street
Goole
East Yorks
DN14 5QL
Tel: 0405 769375



A Few Points..

I have got my hands on a back copy of the SG newsletter including "Fascism: a statement." In three paragraphs the SG has expressed everything I have ever believed about fascism and animal rights, only it would have taken me about 3 pages to say the same thing. In the Summer issue a letter from V. Rickard points out the danger of groups such as the Socialist Workers Party. The SWP and the other 50 or so "revolutionary" hard left groups will jump on any bandwagon that will get them more members. With the increase in veggies I am sure they will soon claim to be "The Party of the ALF". Ignoring the fact that Trosky was indeed a wife beating fox hunter and that their (SWP et al) idea of "revolution" is to sell newspapers; when it comes down to doing something that might lead to arrest or confrontation with the powers that control our lives; you can't see them for dust.

The Press Office bit "League Against The Abolition of Cruel Sports" had a glaring omission in it. Maybe the writer stopped reading "Wildlife Guardian" after the pathetic attack on the ALF. The article "Stop the slaughter of pilot whales!" (page 10) had a story about how the League had joined a campaign to try and stop the slaughter of whales in the Faroe Islands. They mention the peaceful way in which the campaign is being conducted then go on to print a statement from Sea Shepherd who have an ice breaker ready to sail to the area:".....(Sea Shepherd will) show those fellows what no compromise means".

In the past Sea Shepherd has sunk boats in harbours, a bit like the ALF burning down an empty vivisection lab or meat lorries. But what does the League call the ALF? "...Animal Liberation Front which commits criminal acts and uses terrorism to further its aims". So why does it print statements from Sea Shepherd which could be interpreted as threatening and therefore "terrorist" in nature? The simple reason is that the ALF has a bad name which has been spread by the media and believed by the public. Sea Shepherd sinks whaling ships and therefore gets public support so the League can support it's "terrorist" actions without any hassle. But the League has an influential role in the animal

rights/welfare world, it could use this role to educate the public about the compassionate acts of the ALF and how the fire attacks, while appearing dangerous and extreme, are in fact safe and are only the same tactics as the Suffragettes.

I have written to Jim (call me James) Barrington pointing all this out. Will he print my letter in the Wildlife Guardian? Will he reply to my letter? I'm not holding my breath. But it seems sad that instead of spreading the truth, as the League has done so well on the subject of hunting and shooting, they are prepared to help spread lies about the ALF.

On the subject of the Justice Department: I cannot condemn the people behind the attacks but I would ask them to think about the use of bombs. Bombs are the ultimate Politically Correct device -they do not discriminate against anyone, even innocent by-standers.

In the last few issues the subject of security has come up, if any readers out there who own IBM PC's (or compatibles) and would like a copy of some encryption software - which makes your files unreadable, unless you know the password - then I will send them a copy if they send a 3.5" disk and S.A.E. to:

**Hidden Agenda
PO Box 1TA
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE99 1TA**

Some software has built in encryption (wordperfect, PKZIP, Excel etc), these have been cracked and are very unsafe.

The software also makes it possible to send messages to people, either via e-mail or on disk, that is not even readable to the person who wrote it! If people are in doubt about the ability of this piece of software then it should be noted that the author is facing Federal charges in America because he created an almost un-crackable cipher.

Jez Caudle

A.R.N.I. BALLS

Recently the SG Newsletter has been accused of being too down-beat and depressing, we were asked to include more humorous articles. Personally, not finding ourselves on the POW list is enough to keep us happy, but in the interest of an enhanced readership we are starting this new (hopefully) regular column. Any news and stories gratefully accepted.

Apparently, after the Isle of Wight Boots fires the police had 100 phone calls from people recognizing the description of the 'suspect'. Sounds ominous..until they tracked down Mark King, singer/bass player with Level 42. It seems everyone was so busy looking at a pop star walking down the streets that the activist went by completely un-noticed! What a great red herring.

ARNI also recently got a tip off that an ARM meeting was to be held in Yorkshire. Half way through they pounced only to find instead of the 'Animal Rights Militia' it was only a meeting of the "Association of Radical Midwives". Even the local press took the mickey with a headline 'The wrong ARM of the law'.



Robin Silenced

I am a member of the group that organized the demo against live exports at Dover on 29th & 30th July. I and many others in the group were disgusted by the decision not to invite Robin Webb to speak and I would like to take this opportunity to put the record straight. The people responsible for this decision hold the greatest power base within the group i.e. Secretary and Chairperson, and events were such that had the general membership voted against them the group would have been fatally split, a thing that none of us wants as we are the only local group campaigning against live exports at Dover.

I spoke to Robin on the day and he was disappointed but resigned to the fact that by speaking, even after the official speeches, he would be doing more harm than good.

There is even worse news! A couple of weeks before the demo a member of the group was approached by BREACH, a Greenpeace-type water-borne group who offered to help us in any way possible. They even said that they were prepared to halt a ferry in mid-channel! Imagine the publicity that would have come from this but again the same people vetoed the idea!!

I sometimes wonder if these people are on the side of the animals or are more worried about their "good name"!

Pete Law

Comment: The full impact of not having Robin speak is not realized until you know that the three 'official' speakers were Mark Gold, Pip Linberry and Mark Glover all renowned ALF bashers.

WHICKHAM VICTORY

Four activists who were charged with public disorder offenses (after a demo where staff at Whickham labs were padlocked inside their own buildings) were released after magistrates said there was no case to answer. A fifth activist was found guilty of obstructing the highway and received a 12 month conditional discharge with £20 costs.

Laboratory manager Paddy Edwards said he was disappointed with the result. "Because of the result of the case we will be subjected to more of this sort of abuse."

We would have thought he would have gotten used to it by now!

Reply to Dorothy

Regarding Dorothy Silkstine's letter about the JD. I ask myself if she came face to face with a vivisector, would she not be tempted to show her anger. If she has not already seen it I suggest she views the programme "Hidden Crimes".

Yours for animal liberation

David Boyd

Earthkind Correction

The two charities Earthkind and British Divers Marine Life Rescue have joined together to work as one in the defense and protection of marine mammals. To this end they have jointly purchased the Ocean Defender, a 112ft, 200 ton ex-whaling ship and have had it fully refitted and equipped as a permanent rescue vessel ready to respond to any crisis. The vessel will also be used as an investigation and education centre highlighting conservation and environmental issues.

The ship started life as a Norwegian whaler and then became an Allied minesweeper during W.W.II. It's transformation has been called poetic justice.

For further information on the work of either societies or the ship contact:

Earthkind, Humane Education Centre, Bounds Green Road, London N22 4EU. Tel: 081 889 1595

In the last issue of the newsletter we printed an article headed, SOCIAL WORKERS. Due to an error 12 words were omitted from the last paragraph. The last section in this paragraph should have read:

It is not my purpose to use this space to provide a critique of the SWPs view of animals (and this is all they are, just views which are not based on natural and social scientific evidence), but to warn readers of the SWPs agenda.

Our apologies to Victoria Rikeard for the mistake.

Benifit Tape

Anyone who replied to the advert for the tape where all proceeds went to the Supporters Group and received a copy which was not up to standard, please send it back to:

**Newcastle Animal Rights Coalition
PO Box 1JY
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE99 1JY.**

The tape is still on offer and anyone interested should contact the above address and include a cheque/PO for £3 to Newcastle Animal Rights Coalition.

SMALL ANIMAL SANCTUARY IN MID-WALES FOR SALE

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6 acres- 3 double bedroom spacious bungalow - lovely countryside. New stables, kennels and cattery, other outbuildings, plus wild-life pond. Established 1987, caters for all kinds of abandoned and neglected animals. Genuine animal lovers only. Offers around £100,000.

Telephone 0597 824425

Overseas Actions

We have received reports of a number of ALF actions from overseas. Far more than we can fully (or legally) list.

Numerous actions, almost reaching the scale here in England, have been reported in the USA. German activists continue their campaign against hunting platforms with chainsaws. Sweden has seen a number of attacks against vehicles owned by the meat trade and a sudden surge of attacks have happened in Finland where there has been 59 actions between August and September. Unfortunately one activist has been arrested and is awaiting trial for damage to a fur shop. There are no further details at present.

Anonymous Action

The new animal rights organisation, Anonymous, in Israel have had their first success with the closure of a fur shop "Chinchilas Furs" in Tel Aviv. This was achieved by pickets and leafletting alone. The fur trade in Israel consists of 13 remaining shops, supported almost completely by the tourist trade. We wish them well with their future actions.

If anyone wishes to contact them their address is:

Anonymous
PO Box 6315
Tel_aviv 61062
Israel

Greyhounds

Being in an open prison I've been lucky enough to spend some time doing 'community work' at the Greyhound Rescue near Selby. This rescue centre is home for 88 greyhounds who were previously abandoned/starved/abused by the greyhound racing industry, and it featured in the BBC documentary 'Cradle to Grave' which was screened in January.

The charity has recently been granted planning permission to build a new indoor kennels, and is now trying to raise funds to pay for the new building.

It is not easy to find good homes for greyhounds, which means that many of the dogs will stay there for a long time, and some will probably never be re-homed. It is therefore important to make their surroundings as comfortable as possible.

The rescue centre is run by very dedicated people, but like most animal sanctuaries they suffer from the usual lack of funding. Please send a donation!! If everyone who reads this sends a couple of quid it would make a big difference to Rita, William, Flora, Patch, Vicky and all the other friends I have made there.

Can you offer a home to a greyhound? (or two!!). They are loving animals (and contrary to popular belief, very lazy!). If you are interested please contact Karen Schultz, Greyhound Rescue, Derwent View, Brackenholme, Nr Hemmingbrough, Selby, YO8 7EL.

Allison McKeon

P.S. 'Cradle to Grave' can be hired from CAW for £1.50 and the recent CAW bulletin (Issue No.12) has an article about Greyhound racing. CAW, PO Box 589, Bristol, BS99 1RW.

Campaign News

The endangered dog association was set up in 1991 after the introduction of the Dangerous Dog Act. At present one of its main campaigns is to save a dog 'Otis' which is under sentence of death. Legal proceedings are being taken to the European Court of Human Rights but the dog may still be euthanased before these take place. A petition against this is being circulated. For further details and copies of the petition contact:

The Otis Appeal
c/o Endangered Dogs Association
PO Box 1511
London W7 2ZB
Tel: 081 985 5635
081 843 9751

A new animal rescue group has grown out of the disbanded ARK Animal Rescue. They are called Phoenix Animal Rescue and are in the process of finding a permanent site. Temporary accommodation has been found for the animals but they are in need of donations and any other form of help.

The address to contact them is:

Phoenix Animal Rescue
PO Box 29
Biggin Hill
TN16 3ZX

Another World Day March against Shamrock is being organized for the 22nd April 1995. For further details contact:

SEARC
Room 3, 10 Waterloo Place
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 2NB

Ashford Hunt Saboteurs have widened their scope of campaigning by producing lists of pubs and hotels which support hunts by allowing their events

or meets to take place on the premises. The idea is to publicize this list so people can make an informed choice as to whether they wish to use establishments which aid such pursuits.

For further details contact:

Ashford HSA
PO Box 33
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8ZZ

A demo against Fur Farms is being held on Saturday November 5th in Bradford. Meet at Brackenhill Park at 1.00pm.

For further details contact:

Ban Bradford's Fur Farm
CVS, 25 Sunbridge Road
Bradford

After the successes of getting ferrys to stop transporting live animals the animal abusers are fighting back. The haulage company A.J.Revell & Sons are putting pressure on Shorham Harbour authorities to allow exports to go from their port. A campaign against the company is being launched. they are based at:

A.J.Revell & Sons
11 Valley Road
Woodmancote
Peacehaven
East Sussex
BN10 8AE

Alistair Mullan and "grassing"

I've written this mainly to respond to the article in the last newsletter, entitled "Belfast 8 & the P.T.A." and to the allegations made against myself and Kerry McKee in it. I would firstly like to point out that in no way is this article aimed at having a go at the SG or any activist in the movement. Having said that there are criticisms, but these are meant to be constructive and shouldn't be taken in a negative context. Secondly, whilst there are severe inaccuracies, even falsehoods contained in the SG article, I would say that, from my own perspective, I did make a number of serious mistakes, not only at Castlereagh, but both during and after my time in prison.

To begin with the SG article states that I and Kerry McKee used our statements made in Castlereagh as part of our mitigation in the court case. This is simply untrue. At no point in the court case did either of our defence council mention Dave Nelson, let alone blame him for our actions. Nor did any such claims continue at any time after the court case. The only time such claims could have possibly been construed to have been made was during my second day of police questioning in Castlereagh.

I can't deny having given the police names on that day and having gone beyond that in saying things that I should never have said, particularly with regard to Dave Nelson. My behaviour on that day was foolish, malicious, reckless and unforgivable. Having said that, what I had related to the police did not in any way imply that I was blaming Dave for my actions or that he forced me to do them. I would say there were two main reasons for my behaviour, neither of which can in any way justify it.

On the first day of my questioning I went through a lot of shit and stress in an effort not to give in to the police. As that day wore on this became gradually more and more difficult as the police brought in more and more information to throw at me, making ever more accurate and detailed accusations at me, details which could only have come from the mouths of my co-accused, as the police kept re-iterating. Of course I didn't believe

this at first, but by the end of that first day there were serious doubts in my head, particularly when the police showed me a list of the incidents with marks against those co-accused who had stated my involvement in those incidents. This I found to be very accurate. Of course there are those who will turn round and say that the police would have had this information from their surveillance of the incidents, but if that were the case then why would they wait up to six months before arresting us. I never believed for a minute that the police had any worthwhile surveillance information on us, except possibly on the last incident of the case, but from what I could gather they even bungled that up. As regards the treatment given to suspects in Castlereagh, as far as I'm aware, a lot has changed from the days of serious ill-treatment and torture. Since the early eighties there have been a lot of changes and a lot of the bad practices have been routed out. I can only really give you my own experience of the place. As far as physical abuse goes, I found this to be negligible, in fact, nothing worth writing home about at all. There was another suspect arrested over our case who had been named by a number of us (including myself) in several of the incidents. They were questioned in Castlereagh over two days and they didn't break.

I've since spoken to this person and they said they had suffered no physical abuse during questioning. The same solicitor represented them as did me during the court case. He confirmed that no physical abuse had been suffered by that person during questioning. There have been other ALF suspects arrested and questioned at Castlereagh since. They did not suffer physical abuse during questioning and, again, they didn't talk. As regards my co-accused suffering anything from punches to cigarette burns, I saw no evidence of this. As well as this there was no significant delay in access to solicitors when we were arrested. In my own case, I foolishly chose not to see a solicitor for most of the first day, thinking I could handle things (whether I thought I could or not, I should have asked for a solicitor anyway). As it turned out the solicitor I got on the second day was an asshole. Whilst on bail I changed to a more competent solicitor. He has since been doing a good job as solicitor to the Belfast Animal Rights and Hunt Sab groups. In fact

in recent times he has mentioned to activists in the groups that every time he has to go into Castlereagh to deal with other clients, the police there laugh and joke in front of him about the time we were arrested and what an easy job it was to get those ALF people to talk their heads off so quickly. He has told me many times how the police had absolutely no evidence on us, and that if we hadn't talked we would have walked free from Castlereagh.

It was hard for me to comprehend why it was that four of my co-accused should start talking on the first day and drop me in it, especially when on so many occasions we had gone over the basic principal of not admitting to things or giving the police names. This I had strived to do throughout the first day, but by the end of that day there were so many doubts in my head. I felt angry and betrayed. I hardly managed to get much sleep that night in my cell, in fact at one point I was in tears at the thought of so-called friends helping the police to convict me and send me to prison. I need hardly tell you how naive and foolish it was of me to think like that. The fact is myself and co-accused were grossly naive and ignorant of the law, particularly with the PTA and emergency legislation in N.Ireland. We had not prepared ourselves for such a possible eventuality. The solicitors we started off with, in my opinion, were pretty crap. Instead of advising us to "tell the truth", they should have been advising us to say nothing. On the morning of the second day my doubts were confirmed when I saw my co-accused's interview notes of the first day. I felt at the time that there was no reason not to believe they were genuine. At that point, mentally, I was at the end of my tether and had stupidly let myself fall into one of the police's psychological traps. I had lost my head and was beyond caring, at which point I embarked on my reckless confession.

The other main reason for my behaviour was to do with what can only really be described as in-fighting in the hunt sab and animal rights groups in Belfast. The unfortunate, and very dangerous, thing was that it spilled over into the area of those illegal activities which were the subject of our case. In the months up to our arrests there were increasing disagreements between me and Dave Nelson with regard to

such matters. These disagreements had developed into animosity, but it was only part of an animosity that has existed in animal rights circles in Belfast for several years now. During these months myself and others had increasingly become aware of a number of mistakes or dubious practices by Dave, but rather than get together and try and sort these out openly and honestly, I made the mistake of allowing such problems to fester. I became unforgiving and dismissive of him. This negative and destructive attitude of mine continued beyond the court case into much of the time in prison when I wrote letters criticising him in a negative fashion behind his back. The idea of confronting him then I found to be too difficult as I was constantly living with him in a small cell. Of course, that being the case I should not have been writing such critical letters about him to other people. It was at this time I wrote the article "The Belfast 8" for the SG newsletter to explain about our case in detail. Unfortunately, my attitude at that time tainted the accuracy of this, failing to admit my own "grassing" in Castlereagh. I was eventually made aware of the maliciousness and damaging effects of my behaviour by people who wrote to me in prison. I have since given it a lot of thought.

Regarding the assertion about comments having been made in public meetings about illegal actions, as far as I'm concerned, there's only one incident which occurred a few months after I got out of prison. This was at a small internal animal rights meeting, not a public meeting. It had a lot to do with the ongoing animosity that has existed in the animal rights and hunt sab groups, particularly with regard to the spending of funds. At the meeting I had named a person who I said I couldn't trust not to be using money for illegal activities. This of course was well out of order, as a number of people pointed out to me afterwards. I have since apologised to the person in question. These mistakes of mine are now in the past and there is nothing I can do now to change them. For the mistakes I made in Castlereagh, I effectively paid for with a year in prison. I can only hope to have learnt from my experiences, and I believe I have. I am still fully active in Animal Rights/Liberation in Belfast and I intend to continue being so, because I still care strongly about animals, as much I did when I first got involved four or five years ago.

Unfortunately, the SG's investigation of this case was, to say the least, less than fair, when one of their representatives came over to Belfast in July. To start with I didn't know anything about this visit until it was almost over. Luckily a friend had told me about it and I was able to go to a pub to meet the representative the evening before they were heading back to England. Unfortunately, he never approached me despite knowing full well that I was there. Instead, apart from talking to Dave Nelson, it seems that he decided just to talk to a few people who had nothing to do with the court case. They didn't talk to any of the other defendants of the case, and particularly, they didn't talk to me or Kerry McKee. Not what you would call a fair and unbiased investigation. The SG basically went ahead then printed an article which is full of untruths and inaccuracies. They only got one side of the story and decided that was enough for them. If they had done a proper investigation there would probably have been no need for me to waste so much newsletter space writing this response. Of course it's fair to say that if I and my co-accused had told the full story of our questioning at the beginning there would have been no need for an investigation, but the problem is none of us particularly wanted to tell the full story for fear of being labelled a "grass" or "informer". Despite my mistakes I still find the situation absurd. I have been labelled a "grass", yet the people who "grassed" on me whilst I had been saying nothing that first day have now been given a clean bill of health. Does this mean that in the future any ALF suspects in N.Ireland who are arrested and taken to Castlereagh will be immune from being asterixed even if they drop peoples names in it? I thought the main idea of this "grassing" thing was to help warn future activists of people who have "grassed" in the past. The whole thing is a nonsense and to my mind it is indicative of the SG's "grassing" policy. Why is it that the SG, in printing the POW list, can't simply asterix the appropriate people and then state that those people have given information to the police in the past during police questioning, without having to publicly attach negative labels to them such as "grass" or "informer". If the SG wants to use such terminology, they should at least obtain genuine evidence that such persons truly are informers or infiltrators or people who have consistently worked in premeditated fashion to undermine the struggle for animal liberation. It is

so destructive, demoralising and vindictive to use these negative labels on people who may well have made genuine mistakes in the police station only then to be castigated as "traitors". It is especially bad if such people are still genuinely trying to fight for animal rights/liberation. In my view it's not surprising that people who have already been publicly condemned as "grasses" aren't going to write back expressing remorse or apologies. They feel they have already been tried, judged and condemned.

It seems to me that the way the SG has handled this situation has possibly damaged their integrity in animal rights circles in Belfast. Such damage is by no means irreparable. We are all susceptible to making genuine mistakes. The important thing is to learn from mistakes and stay united in the struggle, rather than damage ourselves and that struggle through infighting and vindictiveness.

Alistair Mullan

WILLS

If you would like to leave the ALF Supporters Group something in your will the following words are suggested:

I bequeath to the Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group, presently at BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX, the sum of _____, and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised officer of the said Society shall be good and sufficient discharge of such legacy.

If you are considering leaving property or land we would suggest that you consult your solicitor.

In Support of Alistair & Kerry

I am writing to you to express my disbelief at your article - Belfast Eight and the PTA. I cannot understand why you did not conduct a proper investigation of the arrests, interviewing and trial of these people - events which took place up to three years ago now.

A proper investigation would have included all the eight people concerned, but particularly Alistair Mullen and Kerry McGee, whom you have labeled as informers. Why did you not seek to see them when in NI? A real investigation should also have included other persons in court that day as you seem to be basing the 'grassing' on what happened during mitigation in court. I was in court that day and know that deals were done on the guilty pleas before the trial and Alistair came back from the judge to tell them before going into the courtroom. I do not recollect any mention of blame on Dave Nelson. He was given a longer sentence because he had pleaded guilty to more charges and also had a previous record and a six month suspended sentence to be taken into consideration. The prosecution actually stated that they felt there was no ring leader and it was the police view that these were loosely knit associations. Who told you otherwise?

I wish to go through several points in the letter -

Who invited you over and why? It was common knowledge amongst the people here that the fiasco in Castlereagh was due to naiveté in dealing with police questioning in such a place. Everyone charged is alleged to have sung like birds. A solicitor involved later commented that he believed that the police had nothing with which they could charge anyone and had relied solely on confessions obtained during questioning. At the time there were no allegations of police brutality although Castlereagh did have a terrible reputation and due to investigations is thought to have cleaned up it's act. There can be no doubt that an experience there would be awful, regardless. Do

you know how many of the eight suffered brutality there? It was my understanding at the time that the people involved - the eight - just wanted to put the experience behind them. As far as I know only two - Dave and Alistair - remain in campaigning. I certainly did not feel a need to bring to your attention the fact that they had virtually all dropped each other in it. I felt it would have been up to any of the eight who felt aggrieved to take it further than simply learning from the experience.

Ask Kerry McGee or some of the others - they saw their solicitors on the day of their arrest. Deferment of your right to a solicitor is possible under the PTA but it is not always used.

Whose experiences did you listen to? Shouldn't you have listened to all involved to make a balanced judgment?

I do not know if it is true that Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries here do not consider those who inform in Castlereagh as 'grasses' but I assume that you got that information from a good source and possibly had it confirmed by another good source? Did the Belfast eight refute their statements? In court? No - nobody did, so why pick on Alistair and Kerry?

To the best of my knowledge Kerry and Alistair did not use their statements from Castlereagh as part of their mitigation, trying to get reduced sentences by blaming their actions onto Dave. As previously stated Dave got the longest term because he had the most charges against him and he had a previous record with a six month suspended sentence taken into consideration.

Who - amongst the animal rights activists here - actually helped you to understand the complexities of the case? How many people who were actually involved or around at the time? Also whose depositions did you see?

Finally, a point that has puzzled many of us here -

'these claims have continued even after release from prison', what claims? You also mention in the article public meetings, what public meetings? What is supposed to have been said and by whom? There are rumours now circulating our circles in Belfast and this is causing concern to a great many people. If the SG had conducted this investigation properly then we would not now have a climate of doubt and anger and frustration and so many unanswered questions. This does not help the already fragile animal rights scene here which had been beleaguered for years by petty and personal arguments, infiltration by a fascist and even embezzlement. We are fed up and need to leave it all behind us so we can move on to do whatever it is each one of us believes is right for animal liberation.

Please print this in the SG newsletter or at least reply to my points. A few of us have decided to hold a meeting to try and get the truth out - but like many other meetings held over the years to do the same - we do not hold out much hope. I realise that you, like us, work on limited resources and people to help out, but this has to be sorted out because it is detrimental to what we are all trying to do. My respect for the Support Group as an organization has been shattered.

I would appreciate that we be afforded the right to respond to any allegations you have received about any of us. Help us to get back on our feet and sort it all out so we can leave all the shit in the past.

Yours in hope

Jacqueline Walsh

The Other view

Following the 'Belfast 8 and the PTA' article which was printed in the last edition of the SG Newsletter, a meeting was called to discuss the article and it's implications. The basic outcome of this meeting follows, as I agreed to give an account of it to the SG. It should be remembered that it is a result of a meeting and not a conclusion.

At the meeting, Kerry McKee contested and debated the accuracy of what was said about her in the article and to the SG in general. This point was conceded as the original claims couldn't be upheld in the absence of any physical evidence and in particular the absence of Dave Nelson, who did not attend the meeting. Since the grassing claim was a claim of Dave being grassed on, Dave's presence was crucial as he was directly involved. It should be noted that Dave had advance warning of this meeting and knew of it's importance. The only other activist who talked to the SG and was also involved at the time and present in court gave her recollections, which was what she had said to the SG. This was pointed out to her to be her personal opinion, and though opinions differ, the SG took her opinion as fact.

At the meeting, the onus was on those who made the claims to prove them, and not on Alistair or Kerry to disprove them, and, since no physical evidence could be produced to substantiate the mitigation claim, then, with this in mind, Kerry's and therefore Alistair's grass

label with regard to the mitigation may be unjust, and should be reconsidered.

With regard to it being said that Alistair alleged that someone was involved in illegal activities; well, unfortunately, that someone was me, and what was said about me was completely unfounded. He's admitted that on at least one occasion he has been somewhat loose-tongued and has admitted this in his article. Even though Alistair admits this, it was pointed out that what Alistair said in meetings and if in my opinion he can't be trusted, is irrelevant to the "Belfast 8 and the PTA" article. Further to this a considerable degree of resentment was shown to that fact that myself and Nina Wilson were involved in this at all, as we were not around at the time of the arrests. It was pointed out however, that if Alistair writes to Turning Point, Arkangel, and the SG Newsletter, with an article alleging grassing, then it's up for debate, especially given the "tainted" nature of the article. He admits that the accuracy of this article was tainted by his malicious attitude, which pisses me off as I typed it up for him and posted it off.

This self-confessed maliciousness has been prevalent in a lot of Alistair's more questionable actions and has caused many problems. He states in his article that he can't justify this malicious behavior and he is sorry for this series of mistakes. As one of the people who could have paid for Alistair's 'mistakes', I

don't doubt that he can't justify it. As for being sorry for his 'mistakes', he does deserve some respect for admitting his mistakes (not that they hadn't been spotted) but Alistair's apologies have an unnerving habit of being followed by another mistake, driven by bitterness. With this pattern in mind, what is to stop Alistair being malicious again and what will the consequences be?

As regards Alistair quibbling what constitutes a public meeting, the meeting was attended by a number of new people as well as considerable amount of A/R people that I should not be put in the position of having to trust. Aside from that the meeting was held in a public place, which is a regular meeting place. Alistair again states that he was driven by animosity. The point Alistair was trying to make at this meeting was that they (the animal rights group) should not donate any money towards the Belfast sab group to help them get transport because of a none too glowing character reference Alistair gave me. Another minor victory for the hunt scum! Thankfully the animal rights group did help out financially and we had one of the most successful seasons ever. I'm using this example as it's the one Alistair remembers although it wasn't several months after he got out of prison but in fact was held on 9-10-93 - the meeting was minuted!

The importance of people not publicly speculating about various actions

in Belfast

doesn't seem to be very apparent to those in the animal rights group who should know better. I can understand that these people don't live with the paranoia and so can't fully appreciate or understand what it is like to have your freedom put at risk, but, although both potentially dangerous there is a gulf between naive and being motivated by animosity.

Regrettably the SG did not talk to Alistair or Kerry and so received an incomplete picture. Unfortunately they could only spare one full day in Belfast and this business was kind of complicated. Having said that, the SG had every right to investigate this and was not unreasonable to do so, as imprisoned activists over here including Alistair and Dave received considerable support from the SG, including a substantial amount of money. If Alistair writes an article, in which he mentions three times that he was grassed on and considering the SG policy of not supporting grasses it is understandable that they would want to find out more about those they were supporting.

Alistair's first article doesn't stand up to scrutiny as even dates and events aren't accurate, and a number of points seem to contradict his article in this newsletter, for example, Alistair states "I never believed for a minute that the police had any worthwhile surveillance information..." Compare that to "the police were obviously able to use a lot of surveillance information from phone tapping and bugging to tricking some defendants into confessing and implicating others", which is what he said in his original article. Similar contradictions about access to solicitors and treatment in Castlereagh are contained in these two articles. Which version is to be believed?

As for Castlereagh, I've personally heard

and seen the effects of stories from a female activist who was arrested at this time. I couldn't begin to explain the feelings I have for these perverted RUC bastards who can take advantage of the violent, oppressive atmosphere of Castlereagh. For Alistair to speak lightly of it makes me angry to say the least.

I must re-iterate that I was not in Belfast at the time of the arrest and so can't give any first hand experiences and anything I could say would be regarded as hearsay and it would be wrong for me to do so.

My involvement is that I am the subject of the public meeting previously mentioned and I feel I have a right to respond to any article printed in the SG newsletter, taking the article at face value. I'm also one of the people who wrote to Alistair in prison concerning his actions.

The policy of naming grasses is a sound one in principle, although in practice it seems to be causing some problems. It's vitally important for activists to not put themselves into positions of having to trust someone they are not one hundred percent sure of, by hinting or overtly boasting, an activist is basically grassing up himself.

I don't believe that these problems that all of us in Belfast are facing are particularly unique to us here - although I'm pretty sure that they've never quite manifested in this way. It seems to be a lot to do with the inability to unite the animal rights and animal liberation politics within the wider sphere of the movement. A lot has already been written about this in various articles. However, while we debate this the real enemy, a hierarchical system based on exploitation, systematically causes suffering and abuse to non-human and human animals. This is the direction in

which our strength and commitment should be applied, although the fundamental differences between animal rights and animal liberation shouldn't be overlooked.

With the benefit of hindsight can be seen that the investigation should have been conducted differently, and I hope now that those people who were not talked to and have written to the SG with their points and their side of the story will be taken into account and the SG can reconsider their decision with more balanced sources of information.

Kevin Carson

Yet another view from Belfast

Following a meeting in Belfast in response to the "Belfast 8 & the PTA" article in the last SG, both Kerry and Alistair claim that they did not blame anyone else in mitigation. As what other people remember of the trial differs it has been impossible to prove, one way or the other, what was said.

However due to an article by Alistair Mullan in this issue a number of Belfast activists have felt that they must respond, as his article makes a number of points which are totally untrue we feel that the record should be set straight.

He states that he did not imply to the police that he did blame Dave for his actions, yet when asked why he went along with specific action he replied "Dave isn't the sort of person you argue with in a field in the middle of the night." This was just one of several such comments and related to an incident about which the police had no knowledge prior to Alistair telling them.

Dave was shown detailed and accurate information about his activities from the start. It was this accuracy of this information which lead most of the activists to believe that the RUC has sufficient evidence to convict then hence that they would be better to confess and hence receive lesser sentences. However Alistair claims that his admissions were brought about by malicious feelings towards the others, in particular Dave.

It is a common police tactic to increase the information they have about you in order to suggest that someone is talking. They even go to the lengths of writing out false interviews/statements made by co-accused to try and persuade people to confess. This is not to say that some of it was not given by others, but most of what was said by others only filled details, a lot of information did come from surveillance. He goes on to say that surveillance was only used on the last action, but despite Alistair being arrested along with the others he was not involved in the last action. This alone proves the existence of surveillance prior to that. Furthermore recent events have shown that police surveillance on Belfast AR activists is extensive. It is normal police practice in political cases to have surveillance over a long period of time to learn about tactics and arrest all concerned in every act not just a single action. This has been seen in the other cases which we can not go into due to convictions not resulting in those cases.

Up until late '92 large scale abuse did go on in Castlereagh. In late '92 Amnesty International had to issue an urgent Action Appeal to try and get a 17 year old youth released as he had been so badly beaten that they thought he would die. Another youth arrested around the same time was hospitalized after being charged and suffered long term health problems as a result of his treatment, he was given the last rites three times. Another youth was so badly beaten his own parents didn't recognize him. After Al's intervention beatings

have been very much reduced.

As for the other person arrested at the time who was not abused, this person was a woman and women are rarely beaten. As for those arrested since, all were after the time treatment was improved. One was Nina Wilson who was unlikely to be beaten being a woman but was only fed on bread for three days (if this isn't abuse, what is?). The other two were arrested only to protect one of them after Nina had indicated to the police the night before that she knew he was their informant.

As for Alistair not seeing any signs of abuse to his co-accused, as they had non-communication rules throughout their time on bail it would have been impossible for him to see any physical signs of abuse, except for during the journey from Castlereagh to the court when the police would always have been present.

As far as access to a solicitor goes, even if you are allowed to see a solicitor in Castlereagh, the police listen in to the conversation and you are only allowed to see him or her once a day, you are never allowed to have a solicitor present during interviews.

Alistair has given conflicting accounts about what happened with regards to the Belfast 8 case concerning access to a solicitor, abusive treatment and surveillance. His first article and the one in this newsletter totally contradict themselves in these matters. Although he is now apparently apologizing for his behavior he has made such apologies before in relation to things said in public and then went on to repeat his behavior, furthermore he still refuses to acknowledge any misdemeanors that can't actually be proved.

Unfortunately Alistair's main excuse for his self-confessed malicious behavior blames infighting and alleged "dubious practices". This needs to be tackled in two ways, firstly that Dave's "mistakes" and "dubious practices" can be explained as difference of opinion in how things are done and the fact that Alistair, being a newcomer to the group, wasn't told why certain things were being done as they related to things for which Dave has now been convicted. Also there will always be infighting in groups and if people grass others up because of this we may all end up in prison. Alistair has continued to allege other people are involved in illegal activities to people who are totally new to the group. The meeting he referred to was actually five months after his release and was open to the public, as were all AR meetings. At least one person present had turned up at the stall that day and been invited back to the meeting. This was not an isolated incident and he had continued to talk about things he shouldn't to people he shouldn't. Although some people have said that this is just carelessness and that we should just simply tell him not to do

it again, his remarks seem to have a somewhat malicious motive and despite being told several times he refused to admit that there was any problem with what he had said and did not improve his behavior. It should perhaps be noted that there has not been a repeat of this since the SG visited.

Although Alistair says he is still involved in "animal rights/liberation" he tries to get the word "liberation" removed from the Belfast Animal Liberation Bust Fund and also to declare the fund as defunct despite one person being on bail and facing a prison sentence at the time. He also banned the distribution of the SG and Press Office leaflets at a fund-raising function, after only consulting two other people and failing to discuss it with the vast number of people who turned up before the event to help prepare things. By doing this he jepodised the invaluable support which the SG gives prisoners and in doing so, was giving a kick in the teeth to those currently risking their freedom to save animals.

Alistair's supporters continue to ask why the SG initiated their investigation, they have been told why several times but seemingly refused to accept the answer, we can only assume that this refusal is because it doesn't suit them as it puts the greater part of the blame for this whole nasty business onto Alistair. The SG were alerted to the "grassing" by Alistair's article which was written soon after the trial, in which he alleges that others grassed but fails to

mention his own grassing. He must have surely been well aware that this would result in support being withdrawn from Dave and Graeme and though we acknowledge his apology for this article he seems unable to comprehend (in this and other matters) that saying sorry doesn't undo what has been done and that this is the reason for the investigation. The article wasn't followed up at the time due to the SG's own problems and that is why it has happened at this late stage. The SG had asked to come over and talk to everyone about it but were initially put off by activists that felt that it was not in the movements best interest to rake this up. However the SG still wanted to come over and people finally agreed; they felt that the extremes of Castlereagh was not understood by the SG and would only be appreciated if they came over and talked to non-AR about it, and that Alistair's continued behavior made it impossible to continue to defend/shelter him. We do agree that the SG should have talked to everyone in order to get all sides of the story. Their failure to do this has caused many problems for those of us the SG did talk to and we would urge the SG to be more thorough in its investigations in future in order to prevent a reoccurrence of this incident.

Belfast Activists

Wanted: Greyhound Info

Information about greyhound racing, breeding, training and the effects of racing on the dogs involved.

Any inside information would be most helpful, as would statistics on, for example, the number of dogs bred for racing, injured during training and/or racing, and the number killed as a direct, or indirect result of racing.

I would like to set up some sort of greyhound protection/education trust, and need as much information and advice as I can possibly get!

Please write to:

G.P.T, 'Maes Gwyn', Glanrafon Road, Trelogan, Holywell, Clwyd, CH8 9BG

Final Word

Finally our response to the situation on the Northern Ireland problems.

Due to the fact that there is no hard evidence to support the allegations (a roughly equal number of people say opposite things about the court case) that Alistairs and Kerrys mitigation was directly blaming Dave Nelson we are removing the asterixs from their names and offer our apologies for this mistake. We also recognize that we should have seen both of them but circumstances dictated otherwise (we were also informed that Kerry was not around or involved in the AR movement anymore) and we will make sure this sort of mistake does not happen again.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain the circumstances as we see them because the article by Belfast Activists goes into some details over the circumstances to our visit which we do not consider 100% accurate due we believe to a different perspective. We do not think this was deliberate just that the authors were not aware of the full facts of the matter.

Alistair's first article was submitted when none of the present persons involved with the SG were around. The newsletter it appeared in was actually typed up and designed from HMP Holloway by Vivien Smith, needless to say she was not in a position to take action on the allegations of grassing and shortly afterwards the SG was being run by an entirely new set of people (some completely new, some who had been involved in the SG before) who due to the circumstances did not realise the allegations had been made. Accordingly support for those in prison continued and no questions were asked.

The first time we had the situation brought to our attention was ironically by Stuart McCullough (see other issues for Mr McCulloughs normal ventures and politics) who in one of his few letters mentioned in a PS that it was strange that we had not commented on Alistairs grassing. We dismissed this as more trouble making by McCullough but shortly afterwards the Press Office received a phone call from an activist from Northern Ireland (we won't mention any names here as those involved on both sides are aware who we are talking

about). We were put in contact with this activist and the initial problem was explained, although no mention was made that all participants talked, this we weren't made aware of until we were actually in Northern Ireland. So basically we do feel that the SG initiated the investigation. We asked to see the depositions and any other evidence and were told that there was so much and the case was so complicated (as it is) that it really had to be talked over properly. Thus the idea of visit was first brought up and we cannot recall whose idea this was, not that it is of any importance.

We were at first discouraged, as the activists felt that it would not help the movement over there at the time we agreed because as we had no real evidence we could not go any further without the co-operation of the activists with the depositions etc. After some time more contact was made and it was made clear that they did want us to visit and to make it more worthwhile it was thought a good idea that the Press Officer came as well to make contacts with the media (which he was most successful in doing) and offer the wealth of his experience and perhaps a more detached opinion. It was from Robin's discussion with the Press that an alternative and more horrific view of Castlereagh was gained and this alone was invaluable in the decisions that have followed. Without this insight we may have decided to asterix all the Belfast 8. Dave Nelson, to his credit, actually said that he would be happy with this result on the last evening of the visit but was vetoed because of the information we had gleaned beforehand of Castlereagh.

We have already admitted to the vital mistakes we have made and will not go into them any further. We hope that due to the visit and the articles appearing in this current newsletter a reconciliation can be achieved or at least an understanding. A recent letter accused the SG of stirring up trouble, we do not feel this to be the case. The problems were there way before the visit and were causing problems then. Perhaps now that the issues are out in the air they can be resolved to some degree and the real task of combating animal abuse can be returned to. That is our sincerest wish.

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1975	Boris Barker	George Bogojevic*	Allison McKeon
Cliff Goodman*	David Carre	Sally Carr	Val Mohammed
Ronnie Lee	Alan Cooper	Andrew Clarke	Sam Remington
1977	Nigel Couch	Sean Crabtree	Clare Rush
Dave Hough	Beverly Cowley	Neil Hanson	Rik Scarce
Mike Huskisson	John Curtin	David John	Ed Shephard
Ronnie Lee	Carl Egan	Robin Lane	Helen Steel
Gary Treadwell	Giles Eldridge	Leslie Phipps	Annette Tibbles
1978	Shaun Ellis	Paul Scarse	Kim Trimiew (USA)
Sue Hough	Alistair Fairweather	Geoff Sheppard	Max Watson
Chris Morrissey	Carl Garside	Fran Trutt (USA)	Matthew Welsh
Aubrey Thomas	Keith Griffin	1989	1994
Gary Treadwell	Terry Helsby	Daniel Attwood	Gurjeet Aujla
Val Waters	Mike Huskisson	Colin Chatfield	Colin Chatfield
1983	Sally Levitt	John Curtin	Rod Coronardo (USA)
Steve Boulding	Delia Lowick	Barry Horne	John Curtin
Randy Burrows	Eric Marshall	Garry Norris	Jane Baker
Brendan Delaney	Mike McKrell	Mark Power	David Barbarash (CANADA)
Peter Sales	Sally Miller	Simon Russell	Angie Hamp
1984	Lesley Phipps	Michael Saharathan	Allison Lawson
Hilly Beavan	Nancy Phipps	Hassen Sadelli	Barry Major
Shirley Clarke	Steven Rowe	Jerry Stokes	Keith Mann
Julie Edwards	Virginia Scholey	Roger Yates	Laura Nicol
Martin Gomez	Debbie Smith	1990	Lise Olsen (USA)
Mike Hayes	Nick Sweet	Henry Hutto (USA)	Diane Selvanayagam
Mark Houghton*	Jim Snook	Bill Keogh (USA)	Deborah Stout (USA)
Brett Jackson	Duncan Thorpe	Crescenzo Vellucci (USA)	Kim Trimiew (USA)
Gus MacInnes	Paul Watkins	1992	
Helen Sinclair	Julian Webster	Dave Blenkinsop	Informers not Imprisoned
Steve Symonds	1987	Graeme Cambell	1984
1985	Kevin Baldwin*	Neil Croucher	Ralph Cook
Sue Baker	David Barbarash (CANADA)	John Curtin	1986
Dave Babbington	David Barr	Martyn Eggleton	Roger Troen (USA)
Gordon Bryant*	Gary Cartwright	Grant Horwood (CANADA)	1989
Steve Burrows	Linda Cotnam (CANADA)	Keith Mann	Melvyn Dallas
Dave Callender	Mick Dunbar	Alistair Mullen	1990
John Curtin	Gail Emo (CANADA)	Dave Nelson	William (Bil) Ferguson (USA)
Shaun Ellis	Isobel Facer*	Johnathan Paul (USA)	Martin Gorda (USA)
Carlo Hanshaw	Niel Hanson	Paul Smith	Gayle Smart (USA)
Andy Horbury	John Hewson*	Viv Smith	Lynne Ann Trulio (USA)
Paul Kennedy	Neil Johnson	Chris Tucker	1991
Iain McCann	Ronnie Lee	Darren Thurston (CANADA)	Diljit Binning
Sally Miller	Brendan McNally	Graeme Wood	1993
Graham Mitchell	Val Mohammed	1993	Jessica Sandham (CANADA)
Mike Nunn	Ian Oxley*	Tom Frampton	
Robin Smith	Julia Rodgers*	John Goodwin (USA)	
John Quirke*	Jacque Rabzo (CANADA)	Terry Helsby	
Kevin Williams	Viv Smith	Michael Kardon	
1986	Ken Quayle (CANADA)	Jesse Keenan (USA)	
Gari Allen	1988	Marianne MacDonald	
Peter Anderson	Gari Allen	John Marnell	

This page is a regular feature in the newsletter. If you know of any additions of corrections please let us know. Those persons underlined and marked with an asterix are persons the SG recognises as Grasses.

Earth Liberation Prisoners

The Earth Liberation Prisoners (ELP) is a network that has been set up to circulate up to date information on people who have been imprisoned for their beliefs, be they followers of the Animal Liberation Front, Earth Liberation Front (ELF), Green Anarchists, Earth First! Or other animal or green direct action groups.

The network aims to support those prisoners by basically making groups and individuals within the movement aware, and encouraging them to show solidarity and send letters etc. The ELP at the moment is purely a networking tool, it does not want to start receiving donations for prisoners etc., but if you want further info, prisoner lists etc., send a SAE and a 50p postal order. Apart from Eco/Animal Rights prisoners the group also wished to focus on those from indigenous peoples who fought for land rights and have been jailed because of it.

Why POW

The POW list on the preceeding page shows not only those who have given their freedom in the past for the cause of animal liberation, it also lists those who have informed or grassed in one way or another. This is not for any reasons for vindictiveness or reasons of revenge. It's purpose is to inform and warn people. Many of those marked are still involved in the movement, and no doubt many are doing a worthwhile job, but the past must be remembered. Many animal rights actions can bring us into conflict with the law, whether it be hunt sabbing or just attending demos, people who are easily intimidated by the police into talking can do much damage. People in our movement should be aware of who has talked in the past and be able to make decisions on their involvement with these persons armed with this knowledge, not be kept in ignorance to prevent ill-feeling.

Recently one of the SG's volunteers was physically attacked at a major animal rights event, by a person who is asterixed in the list, because he believed this one person was solely involved in the decisions made concerning the SG and the POW list. The person attacked was also the person who had been grassed initially by this person to really add insult to injury. Luckily our volunteers are made of hardier stuff (and have been given better workings over by animal abusers) to let such attacks change anything. A moral issue is at stake and intimidation from any quarter will not change anything. We know from experience that animal rights prisoners not only sacrifice their freedom for a period they also have to live with the problems of a political conviction for many years, this has resulted in problems with gaining things such as employment and insurance. The POWs live with the results of their past actions, perhaps any other grasses who feel like attacking SG volunteers should try living with theirs first.

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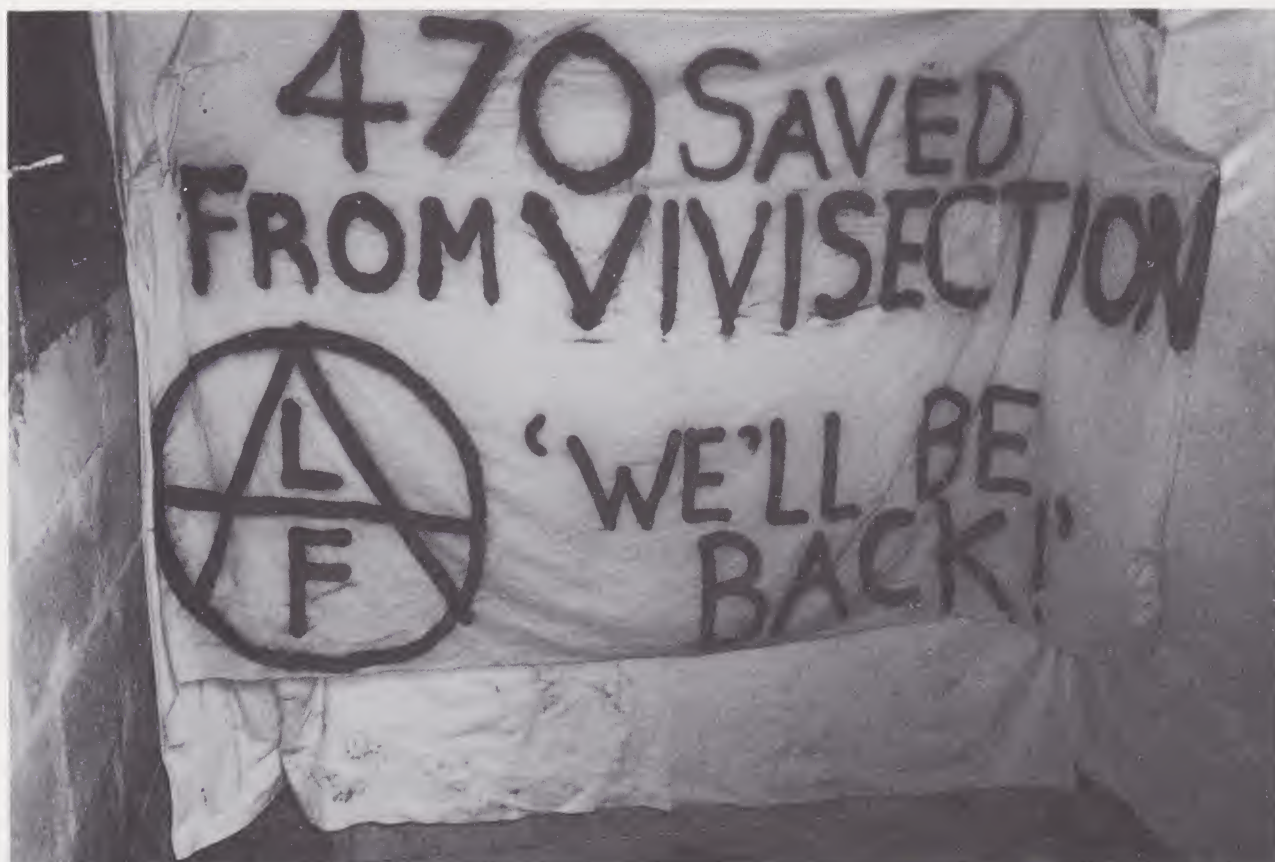


Photo: Banner used for publicity photos on A.Tuck & Sons raid where 470 Guinea pigs were liberated



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